

Hamas says Israel kidnapped leader

RAFAH (AFP) — Israeli special forces entered Palestinian self-rule areas and kidnapped a Hamas leader on Friday morning, it's military wing, the Al Izzeddine Qassam Brigade said. "Zionist special forces entered to kidnap one of the leaders of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Ibrahim Maqadmeh," they said in a statement received in Rafah. "Let the Zionists know that we will burn the ground from under their feet," the statement said. Israel categorically denied it had anything to do with the disappearance of Mr. Maqadmeh, once accused by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of being one of the "worst terrorists on earth." Palestinian security officials told Agence France Presse that they had "serious doubts" about the kidnapping report, adding that Israeli security officials had informed them that they had "nothing to do with Mr. Maqadmeh's disappearance."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Albright starts talks with Assad after requesting Israel and PNA halt heaping abuse at each other

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State Madeleine Albright held talks here Friday with Syrian President Hafez Assad which were expected to focus on the 18-month freeze in Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

Ms. Albright, who arrived on Friday afternoon from a three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, was whisked straight into talks with Mr. Assad and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa, officials said.

The U.S. diplomat was only planning to spend two-and-a-half hours in Syria before heading off to the northern Egyptian city of Alexandria.

During her visit to Israel, the official Syrian press made a series of positive remarks about the region's faltering peace process and insisted Damascus was prepared to cooperate to force a breakthrough.

"Ms. Albright, like other American secretaries of state who have visited Damascus, will find there is full and positive cooperation to succeed in efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace," said the official Al Thawra newspaper.

"Syria is honest in its hopes for peace while being

clear and firm in its desire for a peace based on the application of international resolutions and the principle of land for peace," it added.

But Syrian commentators have also warned the U.S. not to stay loyal to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the expense of peace.

"American efforts should not be limited to saving Netanyahu from the consequences of his policies, but to saving the peace process itself," said an analyst in Al Thawra.

Ms. Albright told the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians Friday to stop heaping abuse on each other and to start making peace.

Ms. Albright spoke to 25 high school students in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank town of Ramallah. But she aimed her message at Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"I am hoping that both leaders will understand the importance of taking a time-out from the war of words and taking a time-out from actions that do not create a climate in which the peace process can move forward," Ms. Albright said.

On Wednesday, she launched a mission to save Middle East peacekeeping in crisis over Jewish settlement building on Arab land occu-



U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat stand face to face after their second meeting, Friday (Reuters photo)

pied by Israel and Islamist bombings that have killed 20 Israelis since late July.

Ms. Albright told the Palestinian students, as she did Israeli students Thursday, that there was no moral equivalent between the bombers and the bulldozers that broke ground on a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem in March.

Later, in live remarks to Voice of Palestine radio, simultaneously translated into Arabic, she told Palestinians they had no greater enemy than the two Islamist groups that carry out bombings against Israel.

"The average Palestinian has no greater enemy than

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad," she said.

"That is why fighting terrorism is the responsibility of both the Palestinian [National] Authority and the Palestinian people and that is why all must understand the battle against terrorism is for the interests of the Arabs, the Palestinians and the Israelis."

Countering Palestinian complaints she and Washington were biased in favour of Israel, Ms. Albright quoted U.S. diplomat Ralph Bunche, who served as a peacemaker in the region mid-century: "I have a bias in favour of both Arabs and Jews in the sense that I



Ms. Albright shakes hands with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa upon her arrival in Damascus on Friday (Reuters photo)

believe that both are good, honourable, and essentially peace-loving peoples and are therefore as capable of making peace as of waging war."

Ms. Albright added: "These are the words with which I want to leave you because they capture my feelings exactly."

On Thursday, she told Mr. Arafat he had a "sacred obligation" to crack down on Islamist groups behind the bombings in Israel.

After the radio speech, she saw him again in Ramallah. "It was very constructive and very important," Mr. Arafat told reporters after Friday's meeting. "We hope that we will see the result

and it will be very good and very soon."

In her radio remarks, Ms. Albright also voiced understanding for Palestinians, saying: "The United States has long insisted that any peace agreement should recognise your legitimate political rights and aspirations."

She said it was possible to reconcile Israel's legitimate security concerns with legitimate Palestinian political rights.

On Thursday, Ms. Albright blamed both sides for the bleakest crisis to threaten the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords signed four years ago this week and said she



Ms. Albright shakes hands with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa upon her arrival in Damascus on Friday (Reuters photo)

could not conjure up a breakthrough without "hard decisions" by both leaders.

"I am a realist and not a magician and I cannot pull a rabbit out of a hat if there is not the making of it there," she told Israeli students at a Jerusalem high school.

Ms. Albright blindsided Mr. Netanyahu with an unexpected call for a freeze on the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Israel should refrain from unilateral acts, including what Palestinians perceive as the provocative expansion of settlements, land confiscation, home demolitions and confiscation of IDs."

She added: "We believe that a time-out from these kinds of unilateral actions will create a climate in which... an accelerated approach can succeed in achieving a final Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement."

An embarrassed Netanyahu administration, which insists that Israel has a right to build wherever it likes in the territories it has occupied since the 1967 Middle East war, swiftly rejected the appeal.

"We cannot freeze settlements any more than we can freeze life," said Mr. Netanyahu's aide, David Bar-Ilan.

Mother Teresa to be buried today

Combined agency dispatches

THREE QUEENS, three presidents and three prime ministers were among the dignitaries scheduled to attend Mother Teresa's funeral today.

President K.R. Narayanan and Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral will lead the Indian delegation to the funeral in 12,000-seat Netaji indoor stadium in the heart of Calcutta.

Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Albanian President Rexhep Meidani were set to attend, along with former Philippine President Corason Aquino.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, were also coming.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, Queen Sofia of Spain and Queen Fabiola of Belgium will also attend.

Hillary Clinton, wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton, was to lead the 100-strong American delegation. Bernadette Chirac, wife of French President Jacques Chirac, arrived in Calcutta on Friday.

The Duchess of Kent and Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, representing Britain, also came on Friday.

Pope John Paul, who has paid glowing tributes to the Roman Catholic nun since she died of a heart attack on September 5 at age 87, will not attend.

The Vatican has given no reason, but it is believed to be due to health concerns.

At the head of the papal delegation will be Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

Among government ministers were French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner, New Zealand Health Minister Bill English and German Employment Minister Norbert Blum.

The leader of Japan's Social Democratic Party, Takako



Nuns from the Missionaries of Charity rehearse for Mother Teresa's funeral as Indian military personnel look on at Netaji indoor stadium Friday (Reuters photo)

Doi, was representing her country.

Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and head of the Catholic church in Ireland where Mother Teresa joined the sisters of Loreto in Rathfarnham in 1928, will attend the funeral.

Mother Teresa's last living relative, Agi Bojachiu, the Albanian-born daughter of the revered nun's brother, arrived from Sicily in Italy.

As India and the world prepared to say a final good bye to Mother Teresa, her successor said Friday that the work started by the frail woman who came to be known as the "Saint of the Gutters" would continue and her order grow.

Hundreds of people were turned back from a central Calcutta church as the huge wooden doors were closed early in the afternoon so that the missionaries of charity and the military could prepare for Saturday's state funeral followed by a private burial.

Throughout the last day of public viewing, thousands of people stood in line despite intermittent rain and 30 degree Celsius temperature to be close to Mother Teresa, to touch a flower to the glass coffin or gaze at the peaceful face of the woman whom the poor considered an angel.

More than 5,000 policemen, including bomb squad members, will be deployed along the 3-kilometre route, said

city police chief Dinesh Vajpayee.

From St. Thomas' Church, the body will be carried on the same gun carriage that served in the funerals of independence leader Mohandas Gandhi in 1948 and India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964. Colonel Sinha Roy said.

It will be towed by an artillery tractor.

Sitting with her back to the room where Mother Teresa will be buried on Saturday, Sister Nirmala, the new head of the order said she had no worries about the order's future.

"The Missionaries of Charity is dependent on divine providence. God will provide whatever we need," she said.

In her first news conference, she met criticism Mother Teresa herself often faced — that the order failed to address the overwhelming underdevelopment that causes poverty.

She said the nuns, monks and volunteers inspired by Mother Teresa would continue to work as they always had.

"We are going to serve the poor. Why they are poor is not our concern," she said in an encounter with reporters that she handled with aplomb and humour, smiling frequently.

She said the order hoped one day soon to fulfil Mother Teresa's last dream of working in mainland China.

She hesitated only once, when a reporter shouted a question about condoms. "It is against the law of God," she said softly after moment.

She also said abortion was never justified, not even in cases of rape.

Both positions are Catholic doctrine, and were often expressed by Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa's private burial, she said, will be a simple affair, lasting "just a few minutes." The body will be lowered into its grave after a prayer.

"This is the place she loved to be. This is her home," Sister Nirmala said.

Friday, reporters glimpsed slabs of white marble and a rectangular cement box about three-feet in the former dining room that will be Mother Teresa's shrine. The room's walls were being painted a yellowy beige, and its cement floors covered in brown linoleum.

Mother Teresa was born in what is now Macedonia, but became an Indian citizen in the 1940s. In 1946, when she was a young nun teaching in church schools in Calcutta, she said she received a call from God to serve the "poorest of the poor." She went on to found hundreds of orphanages, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and clinics run by her Missionaries of Charity order. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Israel freezes projects with Russia over Iran

Combined agency dispatches

INSPIRE OF the denial of Russian officials, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has frozen all major economic projects with Russia claiming Moscow is helping Iran develop ballistic missiles, Israeli media reported Friday.

Mr. Netanyahu informed visiting U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Thursday that Israel had suspended plans to purchase large quantities of Russian natural gas, said the prime minister's senior policy adviser, David Bar-Ilan.

Israel Radio and the Maariv daily reported Friday that the freeze did not only apply to the gas deal, but to every big business transaction between Israel and Russia.

Mr. Bar-Ilan said Friday he was not certain how extensive the freeze would be. "I would think that every major economic project would be suspended," Mr. Bar-Ilan told the Associated Press.

Russia insisted Friday that it was not helping Iran to build long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, amid an escalating row with Israel and the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Valery Nesterushkin told Itar-Tass news agency that Russia had already "clarified the issue in talks with U.S. administration officials and Israeli representatives."

"Evidently they think that is not enough and they are constantly reiterating their doubts," he said.

Israel's position "repeats points" already voiced by U.S. officials, and "evidently they are deriving the information from one and the same source."

Mr. Netanyahu's talks with Ms. Albright Thursday focused on the growing danger that Iran might acquire nuclear weapons.

"Iran is feverishly arming

itself with ballistic missiles and seeking also to develop nuclear weapons," Mr. Netanyahu said Thursday during a joint news conference with Ms. Albright.

Ms. Albright said the U.S. was concerned about Iran's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

The director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry summoned the Russian ambassador, Mikhail Bogdanov, and told him the Russian government must take immediate action to prevent the transfer of this technology, ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron said Friday.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will raise the issue when he meets his Soviet counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, at the U.N. General Assembly this month, Mr. Shiron said.

The row erupted Wednesday, when the Washington Times daily quoted Israeli intelligence as saying Iran was developing missile systems with ranges of up to 1,920 kilometres that could hit targets throughout the region with chemical or biological weapons, and possibly nuclear warheads.

The paper said Russia and China were helping Iran build the missiles, which could be ready for deployment within three years. It was citing an Israeli intelligence report sent to the CIA and the Pentagon.

On Thursday, Mr. Nesterushkin denied the allegations concerning the missiles and said Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation was being conducted strictly under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Russia has provided the required information on this subject many times, but we have the impression that they [the Americans] just don't want to listen to us," he said.

A U.S. expert on Iran, Frank Wisner, is to visit Israel in the next few days, Mr. Bar-Ilan said.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair is greeted by crowds on his arrival in Edinburgh Friday, where he praised the Scots for supporting government's plans for a Scottish Parliament (see story on page 5) (AFP photo)

U.N. chief defends appeal for dialogue in Algeria

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. Chief Kofi Annan Thursday defended his appeal for dialogue in Algeria that had infuriated the Algerian government, and said he was defending "the sanctity of life."

"Right from the beginning I said as secretary general I would offer my mediation whenever I think that would be helpful," he said at a news conference here.

In late August, Mr. Annan appealed to the two sides in the conflict to engage in a dialogue to end the violence, but the Algerian government rejected the call as interference in Algeria's internal affairs.

Mr. Annan discussed the issue over the telephone with Algerian President Liamine Zerroual.

"The president indicated that Algeria has the means,

has strong institutions and capabilities to resolve the issue itself which means that no external intervention is acceptable to the government," Mr. Annan said.

But, he added, "I think as a human being, even though one condemned terrorism, no one can fight with me for defending the sanctity of life and fundamental rights of individuals."

Islamists have been battling with the authorities since the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel elections, which the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) appeared certain to win.

At least 60,000 people are thought to have died in the resulting violence, which has escalated in recent weeks with a fresh wave of car bombings and brutal massacres.

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Israel arrests families of wanted Hamas fugitives, paper reports

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Israeli army has arrested a dozen relatives of five Hamas militants from the West Bank wanted by Israel in the wake of a spate of bombings, a Palestinian newspaper said Friday.

The 12 family members, including mothers and sisters of the five men, were among 24 people arrested in a pre-dawn raid Thursday on the village of Asira Shamaliya near Nablus, said the daily Al Ayyam.

Israel has arrested hundreds of suspected members of Hamas in the West Bank since five bombers blew themselves up in two separate attacks in Jerusalem on July 30 and

Sept. 4, killing 20 Israelis and wounding hundreds.

The attacks were claimed by the Izzeddine Qassam Brigade, Hamas' military wing.

Israeli police obtained a court gag order earlier this week barring publication of any details concerning the investigation into the bombings.

Prior to the blackout, police sources said they suspected the five bombers were Palestinians who travelled abroad before entering Israel to carry out the attack.

They said the men who carried out last week's bombing apparently obtained explosives and

instructions from Hamas members in Israeli-controlled Arab east Jerusalem.

The family members, five of whom were around 60 years old, were interrogated on the whereabouts of their sons, for whom Israel has been searching for over two years, the newspaper quoted relatives as saying.

The five men were arrested by Palestinian police following a series of bus bombings in Israel in 1995, but they escaped from prison after seven months.

Residents of Asira Shamaliya rejected speculation the five carried out the recent Jerusalem bombings, saying some had appeared openly in the village since

the bombings, Al Ayyam reported.

Following the recent bombings, Israel suspended application of peace accords with the Palestinians, accusing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of failing to live up to his commitment under the agreements to crack down on Hamas and other militant groups.

Under pressure from Israel and the U.S. to step up its fight against terrorism, Palestinian police have arrested dozens of Hamas members and sympathisers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the past week.



TURKEY PROTEST: Turkish riot police charge against Islamist demonstrators protesting against the government's secularist education plans after Friday prayers in front of the 16th century Beyazit Mosque in Istanbul. Police dispersed the protesters after the crowd ignored calls by security officials demanding they leave the area (Reuters photo)

Algerian, Lebanese asylum seekers face expulsion from Germany

BONN (AFP) — Germany will continue to expel tens of thousands of asylum seekers from Algeria and Lebanon whose requests have been turned down in spite of criticism by human rights organisations, a government spokesman said Friday.

According to government figures, 6,000 Algerians and 26,000 Lebanese living in Germany face expulsion.

The spokesman said Germany had been made aware of the human rights situation in Algeria by Amnesty International and the German Pro Asylum Organisation.

But a recommendation by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) not to expel Algerians must be limited, for humanitarian reasons, to people threatened by fundamentalist groups, such as politically active women or trade union militants.

Germany tolerates residence in the country of 3,600 Lebanese out of a total 26,000 whose asylum application has been rejected. There was no need to suspend the expulsion of the 22,400 others, the spokesman said in reply to a question in parliament.

"Particularly difficult conditions in refugee camps cannot by themselves justify a refugee status or an extended stay in Germany," the spokesman said, referring to Lebanese of Palestinian origin who would have to live in camps after expulsion.

Exceptions would be made for humanitarian reasons, he added.

Kidnapped Israeli man found alive

Schwartz found in an abandoned house, head wrapped in a Palestinian-style scarf

ASHKELON (AFP) — A 63-year-old Israeli man missing since Wednesday and feared kidnapped by Islamists was found bound but alive Friday in an abandoned house in this southern Israeli city, police said.

Yakov Schwartz, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, was found by firemen with his hands tied and a Palestinian-style scarf wrapped around his head with a copy of the Koran nearby, police said.

Mr. Schwartz's body bore traces of beating and he was in a state of shock but his life was not in danger, they said. He was being treated in an

Ashkelon hospital.

Firemen stumbled upon Mr. Schwartz in an abandoned Ashkelon house when they were called to put out a nearby brushfire, police said.

Hundreds of police, soldiers and volunteers had been searching the region, which lies next to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip, since Mr. Schwartz's car was found abandoned near here on Thursday.

He was last seen Wednesday when he ended a visit to relatives in Ashkelon and headed back to his home in the ultra-Orthodox Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Brak.

Mr. Schwartz's car, with traces of blood inside, was found near the Erez Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Police found his wallet in the car but Mr. Schwartz's identity card was missing. They also found the army-style khaki shirt, leading investigators to believe that Mr. Schwartz may have been kidnapped after picking up a Palestinian hitchhiker disguised as a soldier.

"Apparently something terrible has happened," Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told Israel Radio.

UAE publicly executes two convicted murderers

ABU DHABI (R) — A firing squad executed two convicted murderers before a crowd of hundreds in a square in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Friday, witnesses said.

The official Emirates News Agency WAM said Majid Fakher Hussein Majid, a UAE national, and Abdul Mehd Karim Mush-taq, an Iranian, were executed by firing squad at 9 a.m. in the oasis town of Al 'Ain.

"The implementation of the sentence is a proof that the UAE is determined to implement the law and to be firm against people who breach public order," a government official told

Reuters.

Witnesses said the men were executed in a square as hundreds of people looked on. Executions are extremely rare in the UAE and are usually carried out behind prison walls.

An original sentence by an Islamic Sharia court in Al 'Ain to tie the two men to a post for a whole day in what the ruling called a "crucifixion" before execution was not carried out, the official said.

The two men were members of a gang of six involved in the ambush, robbery and murder of five people in separate cases over a four-month period to July 1995, officials said.

The other four were sentenced to various prison terms.

Their victims were all currency exchange couriers. Four were Asians and one was a national of the one of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the UAE.

"They were not only acts of murder or robbery. They were heinous crimes which could only be faced with the sternest of punishments," the official said.

The two men were to have been tied to a post for public viewing all day Monday and executed Tuesday, according to a

statement Sunday by the oil-rich Gulf Arab state's justice ministry.

But the sentence was delayed. Officials said the delay was to allow police to prepare for the execution.

The Sharia court sentence was confirmed by the appeals court and the higher federal court and was approved by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

The human rights group Amnesty International, in a failed bid to save the two men's lives, had launched an urgent action asking people to write to Sheikh Zayed to spare their lives.

British nurses attacking Saudi justice — lawyer

ADELAIDE (R) — A lawyer for Frank Gilford, brother of an Australian nurse murdered in Saudi Arabia, said Friday that attempts to stop Gilford calling for the death penalty attacked the Saudi justice system.

"These proceedings are to a very great extent a charade," Michael Abbott told the South Australian Supreme Court. "The Saudi justice system is under attack in these proceedings."

The body of Yvonne Gilford, 55, was discovered in her room at the King Fahd Medical Complex in the Saudi city of Dhahran in December 1996. She had been stabbed, bludgeoned and suffocated.

Two British nurses accused in Saudi Arabia of murdering her are appealing to the South

Australia court to stop her brother from calling for their deaths if they are convicted of the killing.

The nurses have already won a temporary injunction here stopping Mr. Gilford from claiming to speak for his 84-year-old mother Muriel, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, in any call for the death penalty in the controversial case.

Under Saudi law, the victim's immediate family — in this case, Mr. Gilford and his mother — may demand public beheading if the two accused nurses are found guilty and the court rules the penalty appropriate.

The British nurses, Deborah Parry, 38, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, claim they have not been getting a fair trial in

Saudi Arabia.

They also say it is wholly inappropriate for Mr. Gilford, a parcel courier from Jamestown, 200 kilometres north of Adelaide, to exercise any right laid down by Sharia law when he lives in Australia and is not a Muslim.

Parry and McLauchlan say Saudi law is "abhorrent to the common law of Australia" in allowing an individual to impose the death penalty, to do so without due process, and to such "a cruel, unjust and inhumane punishment" as public beheading.

Mr. Abbott, however, challenged Friday the right of the British nurses to use an Australian court and called for their case for an injunction against Mr. Gilford to be thrown out.

Syria preparing option of surprise chemical attack on Israel — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Syria has begun preparations for a possible surprise attack on Israel using missiles armed with chemical warheads, the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported Friday.

In a report that coincided with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's scheduled departure from Israel for Damascus, the newspaper published a Russian satellite photo purportedly showing an array of Scud missile launch sites near the city of Hama.

Edward Howe, an arms expert with the British defence weekly Jane's, told the newspaper the satellite photo is proof that Syria has put in place the means to launch a sur-

prise missile attack on Israel that could involve "dozens" of chemical warheads.

Israeli military officials in recent months have expressed mounting concern over Syria's efforts to develop new forms of chemical weapons, including a lethal kind of nerve gas.

But a former commander of the Israeli air force, Avihu Binun, told Israel Radio Friday that the Yediot report "contains nothing new" and that Syria "would not dare fire missiles at Israel."

Ehud Barak, the leader of the opposition Labour Party and a former army chief of staff, agreed.

"Syria wouldn't risk a surprise chemical attack

against Israel because they are afraid of the nuclear weapons they think we hold," he said.

Israel has never publicly admitted having a nuclear arsenal, but foreign military experts believe Israel had between 100 and 200 nuclear warheads which could be placed on the army's "Jericho" medium and long-range missiles.

Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations have been on hold since February 1996.

Ms. Albright and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed ways of renewing the Syrian track of the peace process late Thursday but neither made any public declarations about their talks (See story about Albright's trip on page 1).

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:10	Twinkle
14:30	Muppet Show
15:00	Blue Heelers
15:30	World Of Geo
16:00	The Valley Between
16:30	Til
17:00	French programmes
19:00	Le Journal
19:30	News headlines
19:35	Neighbours
20:00	The Newly Weds
20:30	Prism
21:10	Time Trax
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film
23:59	End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:54	Fajr
06:13	(Sunrise) Doha
12:32	Dhuhr
16:04	Asr
18:50	Maghreb
20:09	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church	Tel. 661656
Terra Sancta Church	Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

622366	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623341
622826	Anglican Church Tel. 622826
771331	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
775261	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
771751	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
5516345	Armenian International Church Tel. 5516345
824328	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
845457	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
654932	The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
675691	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
811295	The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
637660	English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly to north-easterly moderate. In Agaba,

winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	19/31
Aqaba	23/37
Deserts	15/33

Yesterday's high temperatures:	Amman 30 Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaldeh	736011
Dr. Yawfik Qub'ala	623029
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour	699440
Dr. Hisham Kan'an	790286
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	632672
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Gazi Ta'anneh	250080
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	

Dr. Akram Haddad	985550
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	

Electric Power Company	815615
RJ Flight Information	08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marks	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199

ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital	(09)990990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

08:05	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	New Delhi (RJ)
10:25	Beirut (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00	Colombo (RJ)
14:45	Tunis (add) (RJ)
15:55	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15	Cairo (RJ)
19:10	London, Berlin (RJ)
02:30	Madrid (RJ)
05:30	Bangkok (RJ)

ARRIVALS

06:00	Tunis, (add) (RJ)
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
12:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00	Paris (RJ)
13:15	Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
14:05	London (RJ)
21:10	Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:25	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:50	Bombay (RJ)
22:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

DEPARTURES

04:00	Rome (AZ)
04:00	Athens (OA)
06:50	Larnaca (CY)
07:10	London (GA)
07:55	London (GA)
08:10	Damascus, London (BA)
14:00	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30	Riyadh (SV)
15:50	Vienna (OS)



Her Majesty Queen Noor greets Queen Sofia of Spain Thursday night. Both are to attend the funeral of Mother Teresa in India Saturday (Petra photo)

Queen to attend Mother Teresa's funeral service in Calcutta today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor left Friday on a two-day trip to India to attend Mother Teresa's funeral service Saturday in Calcutta, a press release announced Thursday.

Queen Noor, who will be accompanied by Sister Julia of the Mother Teresa Home in Amman, met with Mother Teresa in November 1980, when His Majesty King Hussein conferred upon her

Al Istiklal (Independence) medal, the Kingdom's highest decoration, the statement read. Queen Noor is also accompanied by Jordan's ambassador to India, the statement concluded.

Jordanian-Canadian roundtable discussion focuses on public administration reform

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has made major strides towards reforming the public administration system and taken steps to prevent any unjustified appointments of employees in government offices, Deputy Prime Minister For Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour said Thursday. Addressing a one-day round table meeting focusing on Jordanian and Canadian experiences in reforming public administration systems, Dr. Ensour said the government is in the process of restructuring many of its departments, a measure that will include a merger of some of the departments to reduce public expenditure and upgrade efficiency. The government has already introduced amendments to legislation and

laws governing civil service that promote decentralisation and improve public service, the minister said. Studies are underway to set job descriptions and create a data base to secure a supply of information for planners and decision-makers, he explained. Representatives of the Canadian government presented an outline of Canada's public administration reforms, which included plans concerning the appointment of new employees and application of decentralisation policies. Faced with a chronic deficit in fiscal budgets, the Canadian government has introduced a series of corrective measures, such as an early retirement scheme for government employees, according to the Canadians. Representatives of the

ministries of education and health in Jordan outlined recent reform programmes to address administrative weaknesses in their respective departments. Head of the Institute of Public Administration Zuhair Kayed said Jordan continues to benefit from the experiments conducted by other countries toward improving their public administration services, noting that the institute has studied experiments in the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Japan, and New Zealand, and has been following up on the reforms introduced by the Canadian government. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani and senior government officials attended the meeting held at the Royal Scientific Society.

Spain to support Kingdom's request to establish EU financial fund

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Spain has recently agreed to support Jordan in its request to establish a European Union (EU) financial fund in line with the Middle East Peace and Stability Fund announced by the U.S. this year, according to Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil Amari. During his visit to Spain last week, Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh stressed the need for increased financial support from the EU to assist

the Kingdom in carrying out its economic reform and social productivity programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and unemployment. "Jordan's request will also depend on the outcome of the Jordanian delegation's visit to six European countries this week," Dr. Amari said. The delegation is expected to reiterate Jordan's request to increase European financial contributions by \$60 million. Spain's support for Jordan came after the Kingdom considered omitting a

clause in the Euro-Jordan partnership agreement that stipulated that EU countries and Jordan could revise the variety and quantity of produce that can be exported under the deal. Spain had earlier protested the clause, saying it could serve as a precedent for other southern Mediterranean countries to demand proportionate quotas. The EU is also expected to increase the Kingdom's tomato paste quota, to which Spain had earlier objected.

Majority of citizens to turn out for November elections — statistics

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Notwithstanding the call for a general boycott by the Islamists and opposition parties, as well as professional associations and prominent independent personalities, official statistics maintain that virtually all eligible voters registered for the Nov. 4 parliamentary election.

According to 1996 estimates of the Kingdom's population published by the Department of Statistics, Jordanians above the voting age approach 2.1 million (2,086,900), while 53 per cent of the 4,444,000 estimated population are below the age of 19.

Comparing the Department of Statistics' estimates of eligible voters with the final list of registered voters, made available Wednesday to the Jordan Times by Ministry of Interior Director General Hashem Sabbagh, it appears that more than 91 per cent of eligible voters (1,908,271) registered for the upcoming polls. (See Table)

This percentage could be even higher since, according to Article 5 of the Elections Law, "the right to vote is denied to members of the Jordan Armed Forces, Public Security, and Civil Defence throughout their actual service."

Statistics also show a large increase in the percentage of registered voters when compared to the 1993 elections for the 12th Parliament, when 77 per cent of eligible voters registered at the special registration centres set up by each governorate (1,501,229 registered voters out of 1,947,689 eligi-

Governorate	Constituencies	Male	Female	Total	Number of Seats
Amman	First District	72590	67028	139618	3 Muslim
	Second District	67626	62566	130192	3 Muslim
	Third District	59384	57768	117152	1 Circassian-Chechen, 1 Christian, 3 Muslim
	Fourth District	52424	50448	102872	2 Muslim
	Fifth District	69571	66683	136254	1 Circassian-Chechen, 4 Muslim
Central Bedouins		16928	17541	34469	2 Muslim
Total		338523	322034	660557	20 Seats
Irbid	City centre, Bani Obeid, Northern Mazar, Taybeth, and Wasatieh	115095	106381	221476	1 Christian, 8 Muslim
	Ramtha and Bani Kinaneh Districts	35982	31203	67175	3 Muslim
	Kourah and North Ghor Districts	36452	35702	72154	2 Muslim
	Total	187529	173286	360815	14 Seats
Balqa	Balqa	91175	89464	180649	6 Muslim, 2 Christian
Kerak	Kerak	50033	49113	99146	7 Muslim, 2 Christian
Ma'an	Ma'an	15530	13860	29390	3 Muslim
Southern Bedouins		14873	14647	29520	2 Muslim
Total		30403	28507	58910	5 Seats
Zarqa	Zarqa	130211	118803	249014	1 Circassian-Chechen, 1 Christian, 4 Muslim
Mafrqa	Mafrqa	22207	21170	43377	3 Muslim
Northern Bedouins		20507	20260	40767	2 Muslim
Total		42714	41430	84144	5 Seats
Tafleeh	Tafleeh	16377	15396	31773	3 Muslim
Madaba	Madaba	24970	23902	48872	1 Christian, 2 Muslim
Jerash	Jerash	28441	26705	55146	2 Muslim
Ajloun	Ajloun	31120	28831	59951	1 Christian, 2 Muslim
Aqaba	Aqaba	9930	9354	19284	2 Muslim
Total		981446	926828	1908271	80 Seats

ble voters). In the same year, however, 1,203,329 collected their voting cards, and only 821,000 of them turned out at the polls. According to Dr. Sabbagh, the magnetic voting cards, initially supposed to be introduced ahead of this year's elections, are currently under scrutiny by Ministry of Interior experts and will be introduced prior to the next elections, in 2001.

"We are comprehensively studying the new system to be introduced, including the cards and the machinery required, as the voting operation will be totally computerised," he said, adding that the new cards will not cost more than JD1 each. Opposition groups this year strongly opposed the introduction of the new cards, especially because the omission of the holder's profession could have

allowed members of the Armed Forces to go to the polls. When asked whether the cards to be introduced before the 2001 elections will bear an indication of the holder's profession, Dr. Sabbagh declined to answer, reiterating that "the whole system is currently under study." As for candidacies, Dr. Sabbagh said those who intend to run for Parliament may register starting

Oct. 10, for three consecutive days. Article 21 of the Elections Law stipulates that "candidacy for membership in the Lower House shall start 25 days before the day designated and shall continue for three days; no candidacy shall be accepted after this period." More than 550 candidates ran for the 80 Lower House seats in the previous elections.

Jordanian-Sudanese joint committee concludes deliberations in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Friday arrived in Amman after concluding a three-day visit to Sudan, where he co-chaired the Jordanian-Sudanese Higher Committee meeting with Sudan's Deputy Prime Minister Zuhair Mohammad Saleh.



Dr. Abdul Salam Majali

A joint communiqué issued at the closing session voiced Jordan's support for Sudan's current drive to achieve peace with the various factions fighting the government and its efforts to effect stability and protect the country's territorial integrity. The committee reviewed the developments in the Middle East peace process and voiced concern over the obstacles impeding a comprehensive settlement. They stressed the need for the concerned parties to

demand that the sanctions be lifted immediately. The two sides called for an end to inter-Arab differences, increased initiative to create an Arab common market, and the realisation of an integrated Arab economic bloc. Dr. Majali expressed appreciation for Sudan's efforts to bolster cooperation between the two private sectors toward investments and joint ventures. The ministers of industry and trade, as well as agriculture, education, and health, signed agreements on cooperation. On the final day of his visit, Dr. Majali was received by Sudanese President Omar Hassan Bashir and reviewed Jordanian-Sudanese relations and developments in the Middle East. Dr. Majali Thursday warned that further delay in

the implementation of the Madrid and Oslo accords would lead to turmoil and acts of violence. It is of paramount importance that negotiations be resumed between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian authorities, so that a comprehensive settlement can be achieved, he said. Upon his arrival in Khartoum Wednesday, Dr. Majali expressed hope that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would carry a clear plan to restore peace talks, adding that the U.S. is a partner in the peace process. Jordan realises the challenges facing the Sudanese government and backs its efforts at the national and humanitarian levels, the prime minister said. Mr. Saleh in reply voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's continued support

and assistance to his country, which he said is facing external plots directed at its security and stability. Dr. Majali Thursday met the speaker of Sudan's national assembly, Hassan Turabi, and discussed Jordanian-Sudanese relations and the Middle East peace process. The prime minister earlier Thursday toured a number of industrial and agricultural projects in the White and Blue Nile districts and was briefed on plans for their development. The tour included a sugar plant which produces 300,000 tonnes of sugar annually, covering the needs of Sudan and leaving a surplus for export. He also visited the archaeological site of Senar, which is dotted with Islamic remains.

Human rights activists, women's organisations decry 'pro-Israel' U.S. policy in Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human rights activists and women's organisations in Jordan Friday condemned the U.S. policy in the region, describing it as biased toward Israel, and called on it to pressure Israel to honour its commitments under the Oslo agreements. In two separate statements, issued Friday on the occasion of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region, Jordan Society for Human Rights (JSRH) and the women's organisations said U.S. policy is hostile to Arab and Palestinian rights. They expressed solidarity with and called for support of the Palestinian people to enable them to ensure their rights to repatriation, self-

determination, and the establishment of an independent state. JSRH called on the governments who were witnesses to the Oslo agreements, led by the U.S., to suspend all political, economic, and military aid to Israel to force it to honour its commitments. The women's organisations warned that any solutions falling short of ensuring the Palestinian people's rights will have devastating consequences on the Palestinian cause and Arab rights as well. They called on Arab governments, political parties, and non-governmental organisations to stand firm in the face of U.S. and Israeli policies that are hostile to Arab and Palestinian rights.

JSRH asked human rights societies and all concerned parties to put pressure on Israel to withdraw its armed forces from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. The statement said the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people constitute flagrant violations of human rights, which the U.S. would condemn were they practised in a different part of the world. Commenting on Ms. Albright's statements upon her arrival in Tel Aviv, the women's organisations said her call for uprooting the infrastructure of the opponents of the Oslo agreement is tantamount to igniting a Palestinian civil war, and is

designed not only to cover for Israeli settlement activity, but also the siege, starvation, and detention campaign launched against the Palestinian people. The JSRH statement added that the U.S. administration has installed itself as a security officer to safeguard Israeli interests. The statement said the U.S. initiative is designed to implement Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's programme, which considers the status quo as the basis for the final and lasting solution to the Palestine question. JSRH warned that Netanyahu's programme intends to deprive four million Palestinian refugees of their right to repatriation,

considers Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel, and gives Israel a free hand to build further settlements. Since 1993, Israel has confiscated 36,470,000 square metres of Palestinian lands to build new Israeli settlements or to expand existing ones, the JSRH statement continued. Israel still dominates 97 per cent of the West Bank and approximately 40 per cent of the Gaza Strip, the announcement said. Israel is detaining 6,000 Palestinians, including 26 women and 250 children, who are receiving severe treatment and are exposed to torture and inhumane imprisonment conditions, the statement concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

MEMORIAL MASS
* Roman Catholic Bishop Saleem Al Sayegh, along with the Sisters of Mother Teresa in Jordan (the sisters of Dar Al Salam in Gardens Street and sisters of Dar Al Mahabbah in Rusaita) and the co-workers cordially will hold a mass in memory of the late Mother Teresa at College de la Salle (El-Freres) Parish in Jabal Al Hussein on Saturday, 13th Sept. 1997 at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

JAZZ
* Concert of jazz music by Laurent de Wilde at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab

Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555).
* Works by Ali Al Yazbiki at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 16.
* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).
* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.
* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

* Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.
DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL
* Graphics by Rafa Nasir of Iraq, Ziad Dalioul of Syria, and Najia Mehadij at the South Hall.
* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qaloka at the Middle Hall.
* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church).

Taleban say noose tightening on northern Afghanistan city

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's purist Islamic Taleban militia said Friday it had tightened its siege of the northern opposition capital of Mazar-e-Sharif.

A Taleban spokesman, Mullah Abdul Salam, told the private Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) service that pro-Taleban forces had captured Dara-e-Suf, 85 kilometres south of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Dara-e-Suf sits astride a key road link to the central Afghan town of Bamian, bastion of the mainly Shiite Muslim Hizb-e-Wahdat, now the dominant faction in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Mullah Salam, based at Taleban headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar, said Hizb-e-Wahdat had launched an overnight

attack on Taleban forces at the airport several kilometres east of Mazar-e-Sharif, but had been beaten back after three hours of heavy fighting involving tanks, artillery and rockets.

He said the attackers had left six bodies behind them, adding that three Taleban fighters had been killed.

Mullah Salam said the Taleban controlled the airport, but a Hizb-e-Wahdat spokesman in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar said it was still in the hands of opposition forces.

The Taleban said Thursday night its forces had captured the Qala-e-Jangi Fort outside Mazar-e-Sharif and overrun an opposition brigade in the northeastern province of Baghlan.

No independent account of the fighting was available.

The Taleban and its ethnic Pashtun allies began thrusting towards Mazar-e-Sharif, the biggest Afghan city still held by the opposition, from the northeastern city of Kunduz Sunday.

Their advance unleashed a wave of looting in Mazar-e-Sharif as well as factional fighting in which Hizb-e-Wahdat appears to have replaced the ethnic Uzbek militia led by General Abdul Malik as the main force in the city.

An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official said 75 wounded had been treated in the main hospital supported by the ICRC Wednesday and

Thursday. He had no overall casualty toll.

In the Tajik capital Dushanbe, presidential spokesman, Zafar Saidov rejected Taleban charges that Tajikistan was letting opposition planes operate from an air base inside its territory.

"The declarations of the Taleban movement are a provocation. Tajikistan has never interfered into Afghanistan's internal affairs and is not going to do so in future," he told Reuters.

A Taleban spokesman, Mullah Sayed Mohammad Haqqani, said Thursday that two opposition jets had bombed Taleban positions east of Mazar-e-Sharif from Kulyah airbase in Tajikistan.



NATO Secretary General Javier Solana (right) speaks in the commander of NATO-led peace forces Eric Shinsek (left), four-star General Wesley Clark, (centre) and supreme allied NATO commander for Europe after his arrival at Sarajevo Airport Friday. Mr. Solana pledged the alliance would support peaceful political groups in Bosnia before and after elections this weekend (Reuters photo)

Scene set for new step in Bosnia peace process

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The scene was set Friday for a new step in the Bosnia peace process after 11th hour agreements by ultra-nationalists to take part in weekend polls billed as the most complex in history.

The elections are expected to draw 2.5 million voters from the country's three ethnic communities — the Croats, Muslims and Serbs — and pave the way for democracy in a country wracked by a 43-month war.

But although Western officials who have poured \$30 million into organising the polls insist they are crucial if the country is to push forward, there is little optimism among Bosnians and numerous experts who believe the vote will only serve to cement existing divisions among the three communities.

"The elections run the risk of again conferring a pseudo-democratic mandate on many of the ethnic cleansers," said Hrair Balian, of the International Crisis Group, a U.S.-based organisation monitoring the peace process.

One huge obstacle Western officials are likely to face once the polls are over is how to implement the results in areas where the current ultra-nationalist rulers lose out to those who left or were expelled during the war.

That was the reason behind the threat by ultra-nationalist Serbs and Croats to boycott the polls, fearing the loss of several key municipalities which traditionally have been an important centre of power in the former Yugoslavia.

Both dropped their threat after intense international pressure and after winning a number of concessions in towns and villages where their power was threatened.

One key concession given to the Croats by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, was that no voting would take place in one of the seven municipalities in the southern city of Mostar.

The Croats feared that the Muslims would wield too much power in the city if they won control of that municipality since the other six municipalities are expected to be evenly divided between Muslims and Croats.

Last minute preparations were meanwhile underway here to ensure the smooth running of the polls.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and the alliance's supreme commander in Europe, U.S. General Wesley Clark, arrived in Sarajevo early Friday for talks with local officials and elections supervisors.

NATO has organised an elaborate security operation to protect refugees travelling to their former homes to vote and drawn up a list of flashpoint areas where they fear violence.

The NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) has brought in 3,000 extra troops, including two battalion-sized squadrons of United States cavalry in armoured vehicles, to beef up the current force to 36,000 troops.

Three U.S. aircraft with jamming equipment will also be ready to silence radio or television programmes that incite violence.

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana pledged Friday the alliance would support peaceful political groups in Bosnia before and after elections this weekend.

"I say it clearly — the international community must support those parties or factions which are prepared to continue with the Dayton accords. This is what we are doing and will continue to do in the coming days," Mr. Solana told Belgian RTBF radio in an interview broadcast Friday.

"We must support the peace which was well defined at Dayton. Those politicians which are ready to cooperate with the international community must be supported," he added.

Mr. Solana said that in the Serb area of Bosnia the choice was not a personal one between moderate Serb President Biljana Plavsic or Momcilo Krajisnik, an ally of indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, but a "choice for peace and the Dayton accords".

Mr. Solana said SFOR forces would continue to cooperate with the Hague tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in arresting alleged war criminals but declined to confirm rumours NATO had drawn up special plans to snatch suspects.

"We should not talk about precise situations ... SFOR will cooperate with the tribunal to arrest war criminals because I think the international community has a responsibility," he said.

In a separate interview Friday, the European Union's high representative to Bosnia, Carlos Westendorp said a choice between supporting Mr. Plavsic or Karadzic could be "simplified as the good versus the bad".

"The (Bosnian Serb) government must cooperate with the international community for the benefit of the Serb population. If it does, this perception could change," Mr. Westendorp told Belgian newspaper La Libre Belgique.

U.S. pledges to probe Cuba bombings

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Thursday condemned a string of mysterious bombings in Cuba and renewed its readiness to launch a serious probe into Havana's claim that exile groups in Miami are behind the blasts.

But State Department deputy spokesman, James Foley reaffirmed Washington's complaint that Cuba has so far refused to provide the United States with an official request or evidence that is a pre-requisite to such a probe.

"We deeply condemn any such action and we're prepared to take a serious look and follow up any leads if the Cuban government acts seriously and turns in much information they have officially and formally," Mr. Foley told a news briefing.

So far, the United States has only read press reports on the bombings that have shaken Cuba, said Mr. Foley.

"But that's really not good enough, that's not how governments communicate with each other, especially on matters involving law enforcement and inquiries into alleged terrorist incidents," Mr. Foley said.

Separately, Attorney General Janet Reno told reporters "what we have tried to do in each instance where there has been a bombing and there have been allegations, is to pursue them appropriately." She refused to elaborate but her comments seemed somewhat at odds with Mr. Foley.

They spoke after Cuba said it was holding a former Salvadorean soldier who confessed to carrying out bomb attacks on the Communist-ruled island. Havana accused a Cuban exile group in Miami of being behind the bombings campaign.

A Cuban Interior Ministry statement read on the TV news identified the man as Raul Ernesto Cruz Leon and said he had entered the island as a tourist on Aug. 31 from Guatemala.

It described Mr. Cruz Leon as a "mercenary agent recruited abroad" and said his only motive had been financial.

Mr. Cruz Leon is alleged to have confessed to planting four bombs at the Copacabana, Chateau and Trion hotels and at the Bodeguita Del Medio restaurant in Havana last Thursday. An Italian businessman was killed in one of those blasts.

Mr. Cruz Leon also confessed to two earlier similar bomb attacks at the Capri and Nacional hotels in Havana on July 12, the statement said. Three people were hurt in those blasts.

The attacks were part of a series in July and August on the tourism industry, Cuba's biggest hard currency earner.

Cuba said the bombings were "the preparation and execution of an operation organised down to the last detail ... by a subversive structure subordinated to the so-called Cuban American National Foundation" or CANF.

CANF is a right-wing Cuban exile group in Miami fiercely opposed to Cuban President Fidel Castro. CANF has denied any role in the bombings but its representatives said the group supported actions in Cuba that would end Mr. Castro's rule there.

Cuba said it repeatedly advised U.S. authorities of plans by CANF and other exile groups to carry out terrorist attacks in Cuba. It faulted Washington for not acting.

But Mr. Foley said Washington is still awaiting a response "to our repeated requests for any information or physical evidence to support the Cuban government's contention that U.S.-based persons or groups are financing the bombings."

"We reiterate our commitment to investigate any such information formally provided by the Cuban government."

Royalists to be dropped from Cambodian cabinet

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian Premier Hun Sen plans a sweep of his cabinet in which virtually all royalist members loyal to ousted Prince Norodom Ranariddh will be dropped while several politicians who opposed the prince will get top jobs.

Chan Ven, deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly, told Reuters Friday four royalist ministers and four secretaries of state who left Cambodia in the aftermath of the bloody overthrow of Prince Ranariddh on July 5-6 will be dropped.

Replacing them as ministers will be several senior, dissidents of the royalist FUNCINPEC party who broke with Prince Ranariddh in April, Mr. Chan Ven said.

The four royalist cabinet ministers who will lose their jobs are Tao Seng Hour (agriculture), Veng Sereyuth (tourism), Hong Sun Huot (rural development) and Tol Lah (education).

The changes, proposed by Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh's successor as first Prime Minister Ung Huot, are expected to come before the national assembly Tuesday. If approved, they will be forwarded to King Norodom Sihanouk, who is Prince Ranariddh's father, for his approval, Mr. Chan Ven said.

The agriculture portfolio will go to the governor of Siem Reap province, Toan Chhay, who led the April party rebellion against Prince Ranariddh.

Another prominent FUNCINPEC dissident, Ung Phan, will take over tourism.

Duong Khem, another FUNCINPEC rebel, will become minister of rural

development and Mr. Sina will take the education portfolio, Mr. Chan Ven said.

Many FUNCINPEC members and royalist sympathisers fled Cambodia after Prince Ranariddh, who was then in Paris and has remained abroad, was toppled. Many senior royalist military and intelligence officials were rounded up by Hun Sen's forces.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh formed a power-sharing coalition after U.N.-run elections in 1993. After toppling Prince Ranariddh Hun Sen said he wanted to maintain the coalition in the run-up to elections scheduled for next May.

Three new deputy prime ministers will also be appointed next week, raising the number of deputy premiers to five, Mr. Chan Ven said.

The two co-ministers of defence, Tea Banh and Tea Chharmath, will become deputy prime ministers, as will Ieng Mouly, minister of information and the leader of the small Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP).

Ieng Mouly heads a faction of the BLDP which supports Mr. Hun Sen. Another faction of the party supports Prince Ranariddh and most of its members have joined him in self-exile.

Nady Tan, secretary general of the government, will be appointed minister in the Council of Ministers, in place of the absent tourism minister, Veng Sereyuth.

Four new secretaries of state are also expected to be appointed next week, including a replacement for Ho Sok, a former secretary of state at the Interior Ministry and a senior FUNCINPEC official who

was shot dead soon after he was taken prisoner by forces loyal to Mr. Hun Sen in the aftermath of the July fighting.

The three other new secretaries of state will replace absent FUNCINPEC members at the ministries of culture, commerce and finance, Chan Ven said.

But two secretaries of state known to be loyal to Prince Ranariddh will apparently keep their jobs.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hun Sen Friday dismissed a bid by Prince Norodom Ranariddh to represent Cambodia at the U.N. General Assembly session starting next week.

Prince Ranariddh, he claimed the right to represent Cambodia at the General Assembly session in New York.

But Mr. Hun Sen said Friday there would be no problem concerning Cambodia's representation at the world body as King Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Ranariddh's father, had already approved a delegation from Hun Sen government.

"If a person who ran away from the country and did many crazy things that caused the death of many people was allowed by the United Nations to sit... I think there would be no need for such a United Nations," Mr. Hun Sen told reporters while presiding over the opening of a school on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

"We're going to the United Nations with the king's accreditation so I don't think there will be any problems about who represents Cambodia," he said.

Prince Ranariddh, in a statement Thursday, proposed that his father, King Sihanouk, lead Cambodia's delegation to the U.N.

Chile coup anniversary marked by protests

SANTIAGO (R) — A divided Chile Thursday marked with riotous marches and religious ceremonies the anniversary of former dictator, Gen. Augusto Pinochet's bloody 1973 coup against late socialist President Salvador Allende.

On a date that remains a national holiday even though Gen. Pinochet stepped down in 1990, the opposing sides attended separate demonstrations and masses in Santiago.

Near the city's main cemetery, police clashed with rock-throwing youths marching to Allende's tomb, where leftist leaders were laying wreaths in memory of Latin America's first freely elected Marxist president.

Their ceremony was dashed as anti-riot vehicles fired tear gas and water guns at protesters. Police said 90 people were detained during the upheaval.

In a separate incident, a group of men riding in a pick-up truck fired shots in the air as they drove past a police station in southern Santiago.

Earlier Thursday, officials and politicians attended a mass for Allende in La Moneda, the presidential palace where the socialist leader allegedly killed himself 24 years ago with a machine gun given to him by Cuba's Fidel Castro.

After the mass on a patio of the fortress-like building, which was strafed by air force fighters during the coup, Allende's widow called for scrapping the Sept. 11 holiday.

"This should no longer be a day off because it divides Chileans ... So I hope this will be the last one," the frail-looking Hortensia Bussi told reporters.

More than 3,000 people were killed or disappeared during Gen. Pinochet's 16-year regime, while 50,000 were exiled.

At dusk, human rights groups held a candle-lit vigil at Santiago's national stadium to pay homage to the "missing" hundreds of political prisoners who were detained in that sports arena after the coup and never heard from again.

Late Thursday, police again battled with bands of youths in several poor neighbourhoods where protesters burned tires and set up barricades.

Ricardo Lagos, a socialist leader who is widely seen as a potential successor to Christian Democrat President Eduardo Frei, said Chileans were far from burying their rancour.

"We're still a long way from (reconciliation)," said Mr. Lagos, who is Mr. Frei's public works minister. "The strongest evidence is this day, when you'll see two Chileans."

While some 5,000 socialists and communists marched to Allende's tomb, across town in an elegant suburb hundreds of Gen. Pinochet's admirers gathered to salute their hero.

U.S. Army moves to stamp out sexual harassment

WASHINGTON (R) — Moving to end a major rape and sex harassment scandal, the U.S. Army said Thursday it would tighten the selection process for drill sergeants and strive to improve treatment and promotion of female troops.

Officials also said career-ending letters of reprimand or lesser admonishment had been given to eight officers and enlisted leaders from the Aberdeen, Maryland, training camp, where rape charges against drill instructors sparked investigations, trials and convictions at several bases.

Army Secretary Togo West and Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer told a news conference the service would extend "boot camp" recruit training from eight to nine weeks to better instill values of respect for women.

They said prospective drill sergeants would undergo tighter screening, including psychological testing, to make sure they did not abuse the absolute

power they have over young recruits, more than 20 per cent of them women.

"Passive leadership has allowed sexual harassment to persist," said a stinging report from a senior review panel of army officers and civilians released by Mr. West. A second report by the service's inspector general was also critical.

Mr. West said the review panel concluded that violent sexual abuse such as rape "is not endemic throughout our army."

"Sexual harassment, however, continues to be a problem," he told reporters. "The reports conclude that there is today ... a perception by far too many soldiers that there is a lack of commitment in the army to equal opportunity."

Since last November, the army has been battered by reports of harassment or attacks on women recruits in a scandal that has rivalled the navy's "tailhook" investigation into abuse on women at a 1991 navy and marine fliers'

convention in Las Vegas.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Gene McKinney, the service's top enlisted man, is currently awaiting a decision on whether he must face a court martial on harassment charges brought by six servicewomen.

Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine issued a statement saying Thursday's reports constituted a "scathing indictment of the climate and leadership to permit sexual harassment to permeate all levels of the army."

A new human relations action plan released by Mr. West and Gen. Reimer Thursday said the army will "re-engineer the E.O. (equal opportunity) programme from top to bottom to make it responsive to leaders and soldiers."

"We had a leadership failure by selected individuals," Gen. Reimer said. "Leaders must do what is right every day, legally and morally."

Relatives blame Haitian ferry deaths on voodoo

MONTRIOUS (R) — Relatives of victims of a Haitian ferry disaster blamed a boat belonging to a competing line Thursday, saying the rival owner had sunk the vessel using voodoo magic, a local official said.

"The owner of the Calypso Line had given three days for the boat to sink, and everyone knew that," said Simon La Pointe, mayor of La Gonave's main city Anse a Galets, meaning voodoo spirits had been invoked to sink the doomed ferry. "Voodoo is something you just can't exclude in the Haitian system."

The Gonavienne capsized and sank just 50 yards from shore before dawn Monday when passengers eager to disembark crowded to one side. Only 30-60 of the perhaps 300 passengers survived. The rest were trapped inside the ship as it sank to 30 metres below the surface.

La Pointe said he saw a crowd on La Gonave burn a Calypso Line ferry Thursday to avenge what they believed was a voodoo curse.

Ludes Derival, father of the Gonavienne's owner, insisted that magic was the cause of the catastrophe. "How could a boat get all this way across, arrive and then sink?" He asked. "It's magic. People were jealous because his boat was doing so well."

Calypso Line ferry Thursday to avenge what they believed was a voodoo curse.

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Calypso Ferry representatives could not be reached for comment on the allegations.

The steel-hulled, air-conditioned, three-level Gonavienne was even equipped with televisions. The boat had begun carrying passengers in Haiti two weeks ago on a route mostly run by rickety wooden boats.

U.S. navy salvage experts were on their way to assist in the recovery of an estimated 150 dead bodies still trapped in the sunken ferry Thursday, moving diving equipment and a Coast

Guard cutter to the site.

The team of 19 divers includes some who were involved in the recovery efforts after the TWA Flight 800 plane crash last year off Long Island, the United States.

The recovery of bodies by U.N. personnel was hampered by a lack of equipment. The U.N. divers were able to recover some 54 bodies in the days after Monday's accident and about two dozen washed ashore.

Several bodies have washed ashore since the U.N. scrapped its recovery mission Wednesday and 25 were washed ashore just after the body count to 86.

Jernier Orjeune came from Miami, where he lives, after hearing his brother Roland was on the boat.

"We came here today and I saw his body lying on the ground," he said, trying to restrain his distraught mother.

Korea hands soldier killed

South Korea's military said Thursday it had recovered the body of a U.S. soldier killed in a North Korean attack on a U.S. military base in the DMZ.

The body was found in a trench near the border with North Korea, which has been accused of several attacks on U.S. forces in the area.

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A Yes supporter throws his hands in the air as he listens to the results of the referendum come through in St. Brides Hall Edinburgh Friday (Reuter photo)

N. Korea hands over remains of U.S. soldier killed in Korean War

PANMUNJOM (AFP) — In a step to move closer towards the United States, North Korea Friday handed over the remains of a U.S. soldier, believed to have been killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, through the truce village of Panmunjom.

The remains, in a simple aluminium coffin, were handed over by North Korean soldiers to a United Nations honour guard and draped with a U.N. flag at the end of a brief handover ceremony.

At the southern side of the line, a prayer was read by an army chaplain.

"North Koreans are trying to move closer to the United States, without South Korea involved," a South Korean government official, who declined to be named, told AFP. "It makes a threat saying Washington should return its defectors, but at the same time it is trying to please the United States," he said.

North Korea agreed in Beijing Thursday to hold bilateral meetings with the United States next week in New York.

Pyongyang also said it would come to the preliminary four-party talks in New York next week with China, South Korea and the United States, despite the defection

of its top envoy to the United States late last month.

North Korea, which has been technically at war with South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War, also reported the handover.

"(The remains) had been exhumed in the second joint search for U.S. remains, which took place in Unsan county, North Pyongan province, Korea from August 23 to September 11 under the New York accord on May 14," said the North Korean Central News Agency.

The remains are expected to be taken to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

This is the third successful mission by a U.S.-North Korean excavation team during a 20-day field operation in North Korea searching for known battle sites for remains.

During two previous trips, four sets of remains were repatriated. One set found in 1996 was identified as those of a U.S. soldier, while three others are being analysed.

The Pentagon said a U.S. archival team was allowed to see U.S.-related records at Pyongyang's military museum from August 2-9, and documents and photos found are being analysed by the

Pentagon's POW-MIA (prisoner of war-missing in action) office in Washington.

The bodies of more than 8,100 Americans who died in the Korean War have never been recovered.

Last year, Communist North Korea for the first time gave U.S. Defence Department teams the green light to work on the ground with the North Korean People's Army to help locate and recover bodies.

The teams are the first U.S. soldiers to work on the ground in North Korea since the Korean War. Some 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea. The teams pay North Korea 108,000 dollars per mission, which covers the cost of transport, North Korean labour, fuel, food and a standby Medivac helicopter in case of accidents.

Of some 140 sets of remains returned by the North from 1990 to 1993 only seven have been positively identified. One other set found by the first U.S. ground mission was also positively identified.

U.S. officials have said increasing contacts by the North with U.S. military and civilians are crucial to confidence-building measures, especially with the approach of the four-party peace talks.

Adams: Timing of IRA statement 'probably unfortunate'

BELFAST (AFP) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said Friday the timing of an IRA statement disputing principles of non-violence days ahead of next week's round-table peace talks was "probably unfortunate."

However, he told BBC radio that the full interview made public on Thursday was "broadly supportive" of Sinn Fein's search for a democratic settlement.

Mr. Adams argued that the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) commitment to the peace process was manifested by its complete cessation of violence since the renewal of its ceasefire on July 20.

In Thursday's interview with Sinn Fein's newspaper An Phoblacht/Republican News, an IRA spokesman reaffirmed the organisation's position that decommissioning terrorist arms ahead of a political settlement would be "tantamount to surrender."

The spokesman said the Republican organisation had "problems" with parts of the Mitchell Principles — which include using democratic and exclusively peaceful means to resolve political issues and total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations.

His statement — which is the first by an IRA spokesman since the Republican ceasefire resumed — came two days after Sinn Fein agreed to the Mitchell Principles and thereby cleared the final hurdle to its entry to all-party talks Monday at Stormont Castle, outside Belfast.

Mark Durkan, negotiator for the moderate Unionist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), said the IRA's statement of reservations about the Mitchell Principles was no surprise.

He told the BBC: "It cannot be surprising that they are saying they have problems with some of the Mitchell Principles because their existence is entirely contrary to the Mitchell Principles."

The IRA statement increases pressure on leader of the Northern Ireland's main Ulster Unionist Party leader, David Trimble who will decide after a meeting of his party executive Saturday whether to lead his party into Monday's talks.

Commenting on Thursday's statement, Mr. Trimble said: "It shows how thoroughly dishonest an exercise this is, with people who we know are leading members of the IRA turning up to endorse the Mitchell Principles last Tuesday and then attempting to wriggle out from underneath them today. It won't wash."

Scots vote overwhelmingly for their own parliament

EDINBURGH (R) — Scots voted three to one in favour of a British government plan to give them their own parliament for the first time in nearly 300 years.

"A nation again," declared the Scotsman newspaper's front page headline Friday, after final results from voting in Thursday's referendum showed 74.3 per cent in favour of setting up a new parliament with 25.3 per cent against.

On a second ballot question of whether the parliament should be granted tax-varying powers, 63.5 per cent were in favour and 36.5 per cent against. Two voting districts voted narrowly against the second proposal.

"This is a great day for Scotland, one of the most important days in our country's long history. The people have seized the moment," said Scottish Secretary (Minister) Donald Dewar, whose Labour government had made Scottish devolution central to its plans for constitutional reform.

As the results came in, Scots across the country celebrated at referendum parties,

cheering and hugging each other and dancing Scottish jigs.

In the centre of Edinburgh, hundreds of people flocked to Calton Hill where a vigil demanding a Scottish parliament has been held since 1992, when a general election delivered a fourth consecutive conservative government opposed to devolution.

Voter turnout was 61.5 per cent, higher than many had expected after campaigning for the referendum was suspended last week as a mark of respect following the death of Princess Diana.

It was lower than in an earlier Scottish referendum in 1979, when the majority in favour was too small for devolution to go ahead.

The sense of history was heightened by the timing of the vote on the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Stirling Bridge, when forces led by William Wallace — "Braveheart" in the film starring Mel Gibson — routed the English.

The hit film inspired a surge of Scottish nationalism last year which swelled the "yes" vote.

Four million Scots were eligible to vote in the referendum.

Scotland has been ruled from London since 1707, but has kept many of the characteristics of a separate state with its own legal and education systems.

Nevertheless, there have been increasing calls for more autonomy over the past two decades.

Scotland is traditionally a Labour stronghold and there was deep resentment during the Conservatives' 18 years in power, which ended in May, that Scots were ruled by a government they did not elect.

"Iron lady" Margaret Thatcher was an especial hate-figure for Scots during the 1980s, when several of Scotland's biggest companies folded and a hated "poll tax" was imposed a year before it was levied in England.

At the May general election which swept Labour to power, the Conservatives were left with no parliamentary seats representing Scottish constituencies.

The new Scottish parliament will be elected on the

basis of proportional representation, unlike the first-past-the-post system used in elections to the London parliament.

This would benefit the Conservatives. According to an Nop poll for the BBC this week, Labour would win 51 per cent of the vote in a Scottish election, the Scottish national party 24 per cent and the Conservatives 15 per cent.

That would give Labour 66 seats in the 129-seat parliament and the Conservatives 18 seats.

The parliament would have powers over education, health, the environment, agriculture and the arts.

The London parliament would retain control over Scotland's defence, foreign and financial affairs and employment and welfare.

The first elections to the parliament are due in 1999.

Wales will also vote in a referendum next week on whether to set up an assembly with fewer powers than the proposed Scottish one.

Opinion polls point to an inconclusive result here.

U.S. spacecraft swings into orbit around Mars

PASADENA (R) — U.S. space engineers took a major step toward a possible future manned mission to Mars Thursday, blasting a tiny robotic craft into orbit around the red planet to map the surface for landing sites.

Scientists with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) whooped with joy and cheered at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as signals showed the Mars global surveyor had emerged from behind the planet, indicating it was in orbit.

"I'm glad we've got a healthy spacecraft in Mars orbit," Flight Manager Joe Beerer told his team moments after surveyor sent confirmation of its position.

The manoeuvre was the pivotal moment of a 10-month, 435 million-mile voyage to Mars. If surveyor hadn't been captured by the planet's gravitational pull, the ship would have shot off into space, and the mission would have ended.

Surveyor will spend the next four months aligning itself in a proper orbit above Mars — a process called aerobraking — before starting its two-year research task.

"This is all just about the most wonderful thing I can think of," Project Manager Glenn Cunningham told a news conference. "(But) the real work is yet to come."

At 9:31 p.m. EDT, scientists had begun an engine burn to

slow Surveyor down and allow the craft to be captured by Mars, a process that took 22 minutes. During that time, the tiny robotic ship passed behind Mars and over the planet's north pole, cutting off communication with earth for 14 minutes.

Scientists said the craft performed flawlessly during the manoeuvre.

"We couldn't be more pleased," Mr. Cunningham said. "We just couldn't have asked for more."

Surveyor is designed to circle Mars for two years, making a topographic map of the surface and searching for good spots to land future, manned missions to the planet.

Unlike the Pathfinder rover, which has been rolling across the rocky Martian terrain since July 4, Surveyor will also provide scientists with an understanding of the planet's climate and weather patterns.

Eventually the \$148 million craft will produce a detailed topographic map of the entire planet, a tool scientists will use in choosing landing sites or research prospects for future missions.

Surveyor will also examine the terrain for evidence of water and conditions that could have supported life in the past.

Hong Kong's Tung sparks call for democracy referendum

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's China-backed leader, Tung Chee-hwa Friday ignited demands for a referendum on the future of democracy by claiming his slowdown in democratic development was the wish of the people.

Mr. Tung has been in the United States this week defending his dilution of democracy to U.S. leaders and politicians.

On Thursday he said his plan for a 10-year evolution of democracy reflected the aspirations of the people.

"It's up to the people in Hong Kong to decide what is important and what is necessary," Mr. Tung said.

His remarks, carried widely by Hong Kong media, prompted pro-democracy groups to challenge him to a referendum.

"If he claims Hong Kong people want the electoral changes and do not want more democracy, then he should put it to the test. If he wins, we will be convinced," said trade union boss Lee Cheuk-yan, leader of the pro-democracy Frontier Party.

Mr. Lee and Cheung Man-kwong, a prominent member of the Popular Democratic Party, dismissed Mr. Tung's claim that his plan to slash the electorate for so-called "functional constituencies" from 2.7 million to 180,000 had the community's support.

"The best way is to give people a choice between full democracy and his electoral proposal is by putting it to a referendum," Mr. Lee told reporters.

Mr. Cheung said Mr. Tung's claim was absurd. "He should put it to a referendum to see whether Hong Kong people are willing to have their right to vote deprived," he said.

China resumed sovereignty over the 156-year-old British colony on July 1. The world's busiest port and one of its richest cities, Hong Kong has now become a special capitalist region of China with extensive autonomy. The first post-colonial elections are scheduled for next May.

Pro-democracy forces took 70 per cent of the vote in 1995 as the territory of 6.4 million people held its most

democratic legislative elections ever, under reforms now reversed by Mr. Tung on prompting from Beijing.

A recent opinion poll showed a similar proportion of people still support democracy. More than 70 per cent disagreed with Mr. Tung's plan to replace individual votes with corporate votes, and opted for a "one man one vote" system.

Speaking in New York, Mr. Tung also defended a controversial call for consideration of amendments to the 150-year-old international convention on human rights to take account of Asian values. "The voices of Asians need to be heard," he said.

The influential South China Morning Post said Mr. Tung failed to sway U.S. leaders on the validity of his election blueprint.

One of its columns also criticised Mr. Tung's habit of failing to answer questions when confronted by U.S. reporters.

Mr. Tung returns to Hong Kong Saturday.

Bodies, wreck of chopper found off Norway

OSLO (R) — Searchers using remote-controlled equipment have found several bodies and the wreck of a Super Puma helicopter which crashed off the Norwegian coast four days ago, Norwegian police said Friday.

Anne Severinsen, spokeswoman for the Helgeland Police District, said the main body of the aircraft had become separated from the helicopter's tail.

There was no information on whether any of the helicopter's rotor blades had been found, although wreckage was scattered over a wide area, she said.

The French-built Super Puma AS-332II

went missing Monday with 10 passengers and two crew on board during a routine flight to the Nome Oilfield, 200 kilometres off northern Norway.

Two bodies and one rotor blade were recovered from the sea Monday, Norway's air accident investigation board is examining the blade for clues to the cause of the accident.

The wreckage was found in 380 metres of water about 16 nautical miles east of Nome.

Ms. Severinsen said another two bodies had been retrieved from the location early Friday.

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Timely intervention for peace

IN UPCOMING talks with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the Jordanian leadership will reaffirm this country's commitment to peace-making and peace-building and its readiness to do whatever we can to reach a comprehensive and lasting settlement between all Arabs and the Israelis. Jordan, we are sure, will listen attentively to what the secretary will tell us about her talks with regional leaders and to her analysis of the situation in general.

His Majesty King Hussein, and other Arab leaders, have consistently called for an active American role in reviving the peace negotiations, and the secretary of state will no doubt bear from the Jordanian leadership expressions of full support for her current mission. But Ms. Albright will also hear the same message that she will have heard from President Mubarak and Chairman Arafat. It is that Israel's security concerns, while vital to advancing the cause of peace, they are not exclusive to one party over another. Peace and security must go hand-in-hand, if a fair settlement is to be reached.

The secretary of state will certainly hear how important it is for Jordan to see progress on the Palestinian track, and how equally important it is to restart peace talks with Syria and Lebanon.

Further procrastination and delay by the Israeli government are life-threatening not only to the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, but also to Israel itself. Jordan, therefore, would welcome a more assertive U.S. role, something that is commensurate with the statements the secretary of state made in Israel during her visit there. Chairman Arafat is not the only leader who should live up to the commitments he made under Oslo agreements, the Israeli prime minister also should respect and implement his country's commitments. Mr. Netanyahu cannot hope for the demise of Oslo accords while he demands that Mr. Arafat abide by them.

While we see positive results emerging from Ms. Albright's visit, we can only hope that in the weeks and months ahead our American friends will step up the effort first to put the peace process back on track and then see it through to its successful end.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm said the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright ought to make Israel return to the basic principles of the peace process, the Oslo accord and the Madrid conference if she seeks to rebuild confidence between the Israelis and the Arabs and revive the stalled Middle East peace process. Taher Adwan said since the moment the U.S., which is sponsoring the peace process, abandoned its political and economic commitments to the region, nothing has been achieved and the exchange of land for peace did not materialise. While Washington abandoned its role as a partner in the peace-making process, Israel has been exploiting the situation by consolidating its hold on the occupied territories, disregarding the Oslo accord while seeking to normalise its relations with the Arab countries, noted the writer. Reviving peace talks between the parties to the peace process can by no means come through empty promises and lip service but through practical steps designed to end the occupation and the aggression, said the writer. If Ms. Albright seeks only security for Israel, without tackling the basic issue of occupation, said the writer, her mission would end in nought and the Oslo accord, and perhaps the whole peace process, will be dead.

A WRITER for Al Dustour said that the leaders of Egypt, Jordan and Palestine, who held a mini-summit in Cairo, sought to reassert the Arab side's views vis-à-vis the peace process, to prepare a unified stand to present to the U.S. secretary of state and back the Palestinian people's endeavours to reach a final peace agreement with Israel. Oreib Rintawi said that if the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are to be resumed after Madeleine Albright's visit, the Palestinian side will be in dire need of backing from the Arab states in the face of Israel's intransigent position and adamant stands. The writer said that the Palestinians are also in need to fight off enemies who are bent on creating obstacles in the path of peace through various means, and these include the Israeli extremists who seem to be determined to undermine all peace efforts. In the coming round of negotiations, said the writer, the Palestinian leadership is expected to fall under heavy American pressure and more adamant Israeli stands and it will be looking to the Arab states for help and for advice. The Cairo summit, said the writer, was timely and of paramount importance at this crucial stage.

Jordanian Perspective

'Israeli recognition of the Palestinian rights is the key to the stalemate in the peace process'

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE CONFLICTING statements made by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright over the week, coupled with Israel's refusal to ease its harsh measures against the captive Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza, have set the stage for Albright's arrival.

The only silver lining, if one opts to see it as such, was the Israeli media's assertion that Israel and Syria were close to an agreement on terms for resuming their stalled peace talks. But then, how silvery could that be (even if those reports are true) when the Palestinian cause — the very core of the Arab-Israeli conflict — remains suppressed under the military thumb of Israel?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to have sensed that moving towards unblocking the Syrian track of negotiations could be his way out of the mess in Lebanon, as well as a means to reduce the pressure on him on the Palestinian track. While we welcome any Israeli move to make peace with Syria on the basis of the restoration of the legitimate territorial rights of the Syrians, we should also caution Netanyahu and his likes that his manoeuvrings are not really going to get him anywhere in real terms; that is, if indeed his objective to ensure the "security for the people of Israel" is the basis for peace with the Arabs.

Netanyahu could not fool anyone that he is genuinely seeking

peace with Syria; his main motivation here is to avert what many political pundits predict as another Israeli-Syrian war if the already high tension over Lebanon continues to mount. By the same token, Ms. Albright, convinced as she publicly appears to be of the seriousness of the Israeli-Palestinian deadlock, could also be looking for something to show for during her first trip to the Middle East at the helm of the American diplomacy. And this could come in the form of signs of a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli track. That is how it appears on the surface from our vantage point in Amman, at this juncture.

But let us not overlook that Ms. Albright could indeed be carrying new ideas to lift the logjam on the Israeli-Palestinian track despite her strong insistence that President Arafat and the entire Palestinian nation fight "terrorism."

We could come up with very strong arguments against Ms. Albright's public contention that Palestinian "terrorism" was behind the deadlock in the peace process and even try to convince her that Israel's refusal to abide by its agreements is the root cause of the problem. But these arguments are well known and, to a large extent, privately accepted by members of the Clinton administration.

However, a word of "caution" should be worthwhile here: Every inch of pressure that the U.S., Israel or anyone else applies

on President Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to crack down any further on Palestinian hardliners will only further undermine prospects, or whatever is left of them, for an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement that will hold.

Where is the logic in asking the leader of a freedom struggle to punish the Palestinian people — who has borne the brunt of Israel's harsh military machinery and who is convinced, supported by Israel's own actions, that no good is going to come out of negotiations based on the Oslo agreements — if only because Israel itself is challenging the validity of those accords?

The onus indeed is on Jordan. But I fail to see how Jordan, which has been playing a very strong, behind-the-scenes, role in trying to convince Israel that an Israeli recognition of the Palestinian rights is the key to the stalemate in the peace process, could really help break the stalemate resulting from the intransigence of Israeli politicians and leaders.

Ms. Albright, as the senior diplomat of one of Jordan's strongest friends and supporters, is welcome to Jordan, but she should not try to twist the Jordanian arm into cornering the Palestinians further. Any such manoeuvrings will only ram the Palestinians against the wall and create more of the same mould of Palestinians who have been blowing themselves up to send to Israel a resounding reaffirmation of their rights.

As long as hatred, bigotry and ignorance of each other govern relations between Israelis and Palestinians, there will not be true peace

By David Kimche

The writer is a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and chairman of the Israel Council of Foreign Relations. His article is reprinted from the Israeli English language newspaper The Jerusalem Post.

THE ALBRIGHT visit is upon us, hard in the wake of the most traumatic weekends this country experienced in many a year. Albright will undoubtedly have been fully briefed on the mood existing here. She will have been told about the war of words that has engulfed this country regarding the most basic questions affecting our future: withdrawal from Lebanon, the Oslo Accords, negotiations with Syria.

The discord is not only between government and opposition: Peres criticises Barak, Barak berates Benin, while government ministers are at loggerheads over the Lebanese question and over Oslo — one minister claims the Oslo accords are

dead, another, David Levy, warns that he will not remain in a government that allows Oslo to become redundant. A third minister, Avigdor Kahalani, voices his fears that Israel might be at war by the end of 1998, while, at the same time, the prime minister assures us that by the end of his present term in office we will, indeed, be blessed with both peace and security.

Confusing? No wonder so many people would like to see Albright swoop down in a mixture of Mighty Mouse, Batman, and a modern day Messiah, in order to bring to our region, at the very least, a return to sanity.

Albright, however, is no miracle maker. The gulf between the contending parties cannot be bridged in a "quickie" visit. In order to get the peace process back on track, an enormous amount of patience and hard work, as well as not a little am-twisting, must be the order of the day for Albright and her team, and the visit this week must be seen as the opening gambit of a long, renewed effort, and not an

end in itself.

In all the disarray and confusion which so characterises the political scene in Israel today, the one hard bedrock on which future policy has to be fashioned is the much reviled Oslo agreement. Ministers and rabbis may denounce it, Women in Green may become hysterical over it, but it is still the one beacon which must guide our future relation with Palestinians.

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The agreement may not be perfect but given the immensely complex situation which had existed between Israel and the Palestinians before Ron Pundak and Yair Hirschfeld initiated the Oslo talks, the Oslo accords

were the best that could have been achieved.

Moreover, before the death of Oslo is officially pronounced, the alternatives to Oslo must be examined. A return to the in-fidels? A multiplication of terrorist acts? A return to hostility with Egypt and possibly Jordan? An end to hope and a victory for despair?

Albright will no doubt examine the alternatives very carefully

Netanyahu will be hard put to continue collective punishment

or to procrastinate on further stages of withdrawal. The Americans will insist on a plan of action that will enable a measure of mutual confidence to be restored. Their insistence will test both Arafat's and Netanyahu's true intentions and maybe the people of Israel may yet get to know where our government is really heading.

could also help solve the impossible south Lebanese situation, and would serve the interests of the Americans for whom Syria is more important than the Palestinians.

The prime minister's religious and right-wing electorate would accept compromise on the Golan more easily than in Judea and Samaria; his objective of reelection would suffer less from coming to terms with the Syrians than with the Palestinians.

For all these reasons, we may yet see a sudden flurry of political activity on the Syrian front, and in much the same way that the Begin government was willing to sacrifice Sinai in order to uphold its position in Judea and Samaria, our present government might do the same with regards to the Golan.

Yet in the long run it is with the Palestinians that we have to live. As long as hatred, bigotry and ignorance of each other govern relations between Israelis and Palestinians, there will not be true peace in the Holy Land.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Dailies urge Albright to make U.S. real partner in peace process

REVIEWED BY ELIANASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies last week gave prominence to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's current mission in the Middle East and prospects for ending the stalled peace process.

The papers also discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories following the bomb attacks and the failed Israeli military adventure in Lebanon, as well as domestic affairs.

Discussing Ms. Albright's mission, Taher Adwan, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm, said that the Arabs do not expect from the U.S. secretary to transform the U.S. premier, Benjamin Netanyahu, into a dove overnight, but at least she might make him understand the factual situation in the region and urge the American administration to adopt a balanced attitude to protect the peace process and America's interests in this region.

Ms. Albright is called upon to go down to the streets of Gaza and the West Bank and examine the consequences of the Israel-imposed blockade on the Palestinians who are in despair and frustrated over Washington's failure to play the role of a real partner in the peace making process, said the writer.

He said the Arabs expect the U.S. to play the role of a real peace broker, by deed rather than word, not only to reestablish security and peace for the Arabs and the Israelis but also to protect its own interests and credibility.

According to Ibrahim Abi, a writer for Al Ra'i, the U.S. has a major chance to bring about peace in the region despite the serious developments over the past few months.

The United States should return to the root causes of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli dispute and work towards a final settlement that

would end the Israeli occupation of Arab lands, called the writer.

He said the Palestinian resistance activities, which were described by the Israelis as terrorist attacks, are nothing but a natural reaction to the continued repression inflicted on the Palestinians.

What the Arabs expect the U.S. secretary to do, he said, is not to deal with the symptoms of the problem but rather to address the root causes of the whole issue and end the conflict through the exchange of land for peace.

The fact that Madeleine Albright visits the Middle East to help the Palestinians and the Israelis resume peace negotiations is an achievement in itself, said Sultan Hatib, a writer for Al Ra'i.

No one can deny that Mr. Netanyahu is currently facing pressure from all sides to resume the peace talks with the Palestinians and implement the Oslo accords, but Ms. Albright in the region, urging the two sides to resume talks, is something which is welcomed by the Arabs and resented by the Israeli government which considers it as some kind of pressure, said the writer.

The Arab parties involved in the Middle East peace process, said the writer, have prepared their homework, have adopted a common stand in their dealing with Ms. Albright and have reaffirmed to the whole world their determination to support peace.

Despite Israel's ongoing illegal measures, its demolition of Arab homes and its repressive acts against the Palestinians, the Arabs have opted for peace with Israel, noted the writer who said the Arabs have paved the ground for Ms. Albright to exercise some pressure on Israel so that peace can be achieved.

A writer for Al Ra'i called on the Arab leaders to convene a summit meeting not only to end

the internal differences but also to confront the common challenge represented in Israel's aggressive, expansionist policies in the Arab region.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that the tripartite summit held in Cairo last week by the leaders of Egypt, Jordan and Palestine should encourage the other Arab leaders to come together and discuss common issues and protect common interests.

An Arab summit is needed now in order to reaffirm the Arab Nation's commitment to implementing previous summit resolutions that called on Arab states to refrain from normalising their relations with Israel until it conforms to the requirements of peace, said the writer.

In light of Israel's policies and its disregard for all peace accords, said the writer, one can only hope that the Arab leaders will take positive moves in support of the Palestinian people and to ensure the end of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

Oreib Rintawi, a writer for Al Dustour, said Mr. Netanyahu is doubly indebted to the extremists on the Arab side who also helped strengthen the position of the extremists within Israel.

Those who carried out the suicide attacks inside Israel have given Mr. Netanyahu a golden chance to rally the Israeli extremists behind him at a time when the Israeli government was coming under pressure to resume peace talks with the Palestinians.

Describing the recent suicide attacks as a "suspect act" in favour of Mr. Netanyahu, the writer said that the attacks occurred just at the moment when Israel was about to resume talks with the Palestine National Authority and when Mr. Arafat had reached an agreement with the Islamicists groups to prevent a civil conflict in Palestinian territories.

LETTERS

Rescuing peace process

Following is an open letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, endorsed by 20 Arab American organisations:

DESPITE DEEP frustration and disappointment, we, the undersigned, representing Arab American communities nationwide, continue to support the peace process begun at Madrid. We believe that only through a negotiating process, based on land for peace and mutual recognition of rights, can the parties to the Middle East conflict achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

We commend you for proceeding with your trip to the region in pursuit of peace despite the tragic bombings in Jerusalem last week. Furthermore, we commend you for travelling throughout the entire region, thus giving equal weight to all tracks of the peace process.

Just as last week's violence must not be allowed to derail the process, unilateral actions by the parties cannot be allowed to do the same. There is, in this breakdown in the peace process, danger not only to the parties in the region but to U.S. interests as well. If the U.S. is to be able to play a role in restoring trust between the parties to the Middle East conflict, it is imperative that we retain the confidence of all sides.

To do this we urge you to take the following steps as part of your mission to advance the peace process:

- Insist that cooperation and partnership are essential at all levels. As both you and President Clinton have affirmed, the peace process is a two-way street. Existing agreements between the parties must be honoured and implemented and no party can take unilateral acts without causing a breakdown in trust and confidence.

- Insist that the Israelis stop all settlement construction and land confiscation, especially the highly inflammatory settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim. The issue of Jerusalem must be left for final status negotiations;

- Insist that the Israeli government stop all unilateral and unjust actions which threaten the livelihood of the Palestinian people;

- proceed with negotiations on the port and airport for Gaza, the safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, and the remaining agreed upon Israeli withdrawals in the West Bank and the devastating effect of closures;

- take immediate measures to improve the daily life of the Palestinian people so that they, too, may reap the benefits of peace.

- Insist that the Israeli government respect

the citizenship and rights of Palestinian Americans in the region.

- Bolster U.S. support for the legitimacy of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) by convening a meeting of the U.S.-Palestinian commission.

- Prepare the way for U.S. recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood.

- Make clear that the U.S. remains committed to the principle of land-for-peace as the basis for Israeli-Syrian negotiations and reaffirm U.S. commitment to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

- Make efforts to end hostility in southern Lebanon and to stop it from escalating out of control. We urge you to reiterate President Clinton's April 24, 1996, support for U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south of Lebanon and restate long-standing U.S. support for full implementation of the Taff accord and U.N. Security Council Resolution 520.

- Include Lebanon in all future peace talks. Again, we commend you on your commitment to the peace process, particularly in the face of increasing pressure from Capitol Hill's opponents of a just and balanced peace. We wish you a successful trip and look forward to your leadership in rescuing the process upon your return.

Arab American Institute;
American Muslim Council;
American Task Force for Lebanon;
American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine;

Arab American League of Voters, NJ;
Arab American Community and Cultural Centre, Houston TX;
Adoness American Community Centre;

Arab Community Centre for Economic and Social Services;
Arab Americans of Central Ohio;
Yemeni American Association;
National Arab American Business Association;

Palestine American Congress;
Chaldean Federation of America;
Arab Women's Council;
Lebanese American Athletic Club;
Philadelphia Association of Arab Americans;

Bint Jubail Cultural Centre, MI;
Jabell American Council;
Palestinian American Chamber of Commerce;
Arab American Council of New York.

Features
Teaching foreign languages could be made practical
By Richard Linn
The past few years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of children learning a second language in school. This is a very good thing, as it helps children to become more global citizens. However, it is important that the teaching of languages be done in a way that is both effective and enjoyable. One way to do this is by making the learning process practical. For example, children could be encouraged to use the language they are learning in real-life situations, such as in a play or a project. This would help them to see the value of the language and to become more motivated to learn. Another way to make the learning process practical is by using authentic materials, such as songs, stories, and videos. This would help children to hear the language in a natural context and to understand the meaning of the words. Finally, it is important that teachers be trained in the best ways to teach a second language. This would help them to create a supportive and engaging learning environment for their students. In conclusion, teaching foreign languages in schools is a very important task, and it should be done in a way that is both effective and enjoyable. By making the learning process practical, we can help children to become more global citizens and to appreciate the value of different cultures.

Features

Teaching foreign languages could be fun if made practical

By Richard Tanner

LEARNING A language involves four skills: listening and speaking, reading and writing. Teaching a foreign language should include all four. However, at the grammar school where I learnt French, it was mostly reading and writing; true, we chanted our numerals and days of the week in unison, conjugated our irregular verbs together and declined our nouns, even did the weekly "petit dictée", but I came away with a good GCE pass, able to read a newspaper or write a simple letter, but unable to make myself understood by French speakers.

In fact, while camping in France and Quebec, I would send my wife to find information or buy things as she, without hang-ups about tenses and genders which left me stuttering in embarrassment, could ask the way and come up with the goods. Formally trained, I could not communicate; my wife and children could.

Most taxi drivers in Amman are like that; they listen, practise whatever vocabulary they pick up and easily find out my name, nationality, number of children, job years in Jordan and whether I like it here. Tourist shopkeepers and young guides have become more proficient and when asked where they learnt English, usually deny any school learning; "from the fringes" is the most common answer. My grandchildren, using even fewer words, usually get their way and they are barely two.

So what can school learn from this? That to become bilingual, it is best to start early. Children can learn their mother tongue between the ages of one and six, and a second or third language at the same time. If Jordan wants to become the Hong Kong or Singapore of the eastern Mediterranean, it should start teaching its infants English, French, Russian or any other language, together with Arabic. There are plenty of foreign native speakers to make use of, so Montessori or similar natural play-way methods can be used in families, play groups and kindergartens. If the youngsters have to wait until senior school, then all is still not lost, as similar practical methods can teach communication.

In my fairly rough, inner-city senior school in England, all the eleven year olds had to learn French; some switched to German or Spanish at 12, and almost all hated foreign language learning. We had expensive language laboratories wrecked, teachers disillusioned and truly abysmal exam results.

As a principal, I was lucky enough to recruit a young woman and was surprised when she requested hard-board and nails to teach French. Was she going to nail the children to their seats, I wondered? She sweet-talked the crafts department into producing a shop front with counter and the rest of us into bringing cartons and packets, jars and coins back from our holidays in France. In no time, Patricia had her classes vying to be shopkeeper or assistant, or the shopper coming up to greet them and purchase necessary supplies, with the rest of the class checking answers and waiting their turn to improve their spoken French. After one semester, they not only knew as many food nouns as I did, they were able to use them in conversation. When I accompanied them to Normandy at the end of their first year — another innovation — they took my wife's place with confidence and ordered all my needs. Of course, they learned to read and write words and sentences but they learned faster as the sequencing was natural. Of course it was noisier and more demanding on the teacher, but also more rewarding getting good results without discipline problems.

During their second year, the children enjoyed other activities — working in pairs, facing each other across a

desk to play a variety of "roles" and games, sitting on mats to tell their group stories and answer questions, with the teaching migrating between groups, pulling the mats together to listen to Patricia telling a story or a visitor talking. Lessons would begin and end with mats together for instructions and feedback, with everything in French throughout every lesson. The French assistant, a third-year undergraduate from France working part-time in school to earn money and improve her English, instead of taking small groups out of class for conversation, was part of the team providing an extra pair of ears plus up-to-date colloquialisms.

We pulled out the language labs — 20 stations for a class of 35 never worked even when all the stations did, which never was the case, and having children hide behind screens to talk to the teacher was more of a good than a practical idea — keeping the tapes and headsets for individual and small group work. We bought more flexible furniture and carpets, encouraging other staff to use them in varied ways, using Patricia as a model. Everyone enjoyed going into her room because, together with a smile, we usually got something to eat or drink (from the shop) if we asked "en français." And isn't this how parents teach their youngsters?

Family methods could go a stage further, for older students could act like big brothers and sisters, improving language skills of both teachers and learners.

Of course it wasn't all "fun." Though practical, Patricia was also a traditional teacher. Children had their weekly spelling lists checked, attempted comprehension for their textbooks, wrote their dictation exercises and read books. Her French assistants were invaluable, supporting group activities and engaging in more advanced conversation, explaining errors and helping to ensure these were not repeated. Isn't this something for our university students to do, helping youngsters and learning from gifted teachers at the same time?

Undoubtedly our English as a Second Language programmes can be improved. First, decisions should be made about the age at which English should be started. Teachers should be encouraged to develop practical approaches, probably by working with a master teacher, then be encouraged to apply new techniques in their own classroom.

Administrators will have to encourage teachers to take risks, to understand non-didactic methods. Extra help from student "assistants" should be organised on a regular basis, both to aid teachers and children and to spread the new practical methods across a new generation of parents and teachers.

More practical and interesting textbooks, based on the best American or English schemes of work, should be put together, sequenced and supported with enrichment materials: games and activities, tapes and videos — a JTV version of Sesame Street perhaps — and libraries stocked with good children's books.

Parents should be advised about the new methods and materials: perhaps they could visit, not only to see lessons in operation but to participate — Patricia taught three parents within her GCSE and claimed that their levels of motivation inspired the rest of the class, and I was certainly amused to wander in when practising "Quel âge avez vous?" to hear "J'ai quinze ans; quatorze ans; quinze ans; quatorze ans et un ans."

Perhaps, with illiteracy rates among women in south Jordan above 30 per cent, there is another message here.

The writer, an ex-principal of a British school, is currently teaching at the Baccalaureate School in Amman.

Western media coverage of the events in the region should be countered in a free and credible Arab press

By Lamis Andoni

WHEN THE U.S.-led coalition shelled Al Ameriya shelter in Baghdad on Feb. 15, 1991, there were very few Western journalists in the Iraqi capital. But three days later, a convoy entered Iraq and the shelter that was still filled with the stench of burned human flesh was its first destination.

However, very little appeared in the American press and media in terms of detailing the human suffering of the refugees of more than one thousand victims who burned to death or of investigative reports checking the Pentagon claims that the shelter was used for military purpose and consequently was a legitimate military target.

The only such reports appeared in a British publication, namely the Independent, or in some French, German and Swedish publications who dared to challenge, through eyewitness testimonies and investigative reporting, the Pentagon allegations.

As one of those who were in Baghdad, this journalist tried, as others did, to at least convey the human tragedy and pain that Al Ameriya neighborhood, where many lost their whole families in one blow, suffered; it was to no avail. The story was spiced while other publications showed no interest in the idea. Most of the American organisations were reluctant to challenge the Pentagon and its powerful propaganda machine.

The Ameriya bombing is a stark example of the failure of the American media, in spite of their high level of professionalism, to provide a really independent coverage that does not conform to the U.S. foreign policy in the Arab World. However, it is not the only example for, time and again, the American media had unwittingly contributed to the dehumanisation of the people in the region.

Extensive coverage and even dramatisation of tragic events, whether natural disasters, atrocities or "terrorist attacks", are some of the features of the American media; in addition to detailed reporting, human interest stories about survivors and victims fill pages of the mainstream press while harrowing pictures are splashed on television screens touching the audience's hearts and minds. However, as the Ameriya coverage indicates, this is not necessary the case where the tragedy involves Arab victims, and especially if the party responsible is the U.S. or Israel, its closest ally in the region. This feature of the American media coverage is perhaps one of the most striking examples — definitely with exceptions — of the American media failure to be an honest witness to historical developments in the Arab region when the accounts run against the U.S. vision and objectives.

There is doubtless no lack of professional American correspondents in the region, and most are ready to take risks venturing into dangerous situations. Hence, this failure is due to the approach of news organisations to the Middle East and its people rather than to professional incompetence.

The American media have established and accumulated long-standing traditions of objectivity and thoroughness. But these often do not hold when the American view of the world and of its own role is directly challenged.

That is not to say that American correspondents deliberately distort facts; it has more to do with the context provided for the news and the selectivity of facts and issues reported. Sure enough, many correspondents display impressive courage during war situations, but in the final analysis, it is the context of the coverage that influences the way facts are perceived by the general public.

The case of the Ameriya shelter is an extreme case, in that even the facts regarding the human implications of the bombing were under-reported — with very few exceptions that fell short of an investigation of the Pentagon claims.

Sure, the implications of the international embargo against

Iraq are covered now and then, but there is rarely reporting that questions the objectives of the U.S.-led sanctions — at best it focuses on whether the sanctions are working or not. The rationale itself is often accepted and is rarely questioned in the U.S. press. In general, however, the human face of Arab suffering, either as a result of Western sanctions or Israeli occupation, does not compare with the coverage of Israeli pain or stories of ordeals of Western individuals, be they hostages or victims of "terrorist attacks".

The definition of "terrorism" is another indicator, in itself, of how the media conform to the government foreign policy guidelines. Attacks or acts of violence are mostly labelled as terrorist if and when the U.S. government describes them as such. Of course the American media organisations do not have to issue directives nor do they receive any such instructions. But there is a general assumption, ingrained in the predominant political culture and mainly consistent with the government views and what is seen as American interests, that news organisations rarely defy — at least when it comes to the Arab World.

Thus, it is difficult to find one single Israeli attack or air raid, regardless of the targets or the victims involved, that was described by the mainstream media as "terrorist" — the attacks are often viewed as justified retaliation, acts of self-defence or, at best, unpremeditated "errors". The coverage of the human loss and pain that follow is consequently influenced by the way the story is presented in the first place.

For example, following each suicide bomb attack by Palestinian Islamist militants, there would be a barrage of stories detailing the implications of the horror and pain of Israeli individuals and society. At the same time, there have been few reports exploring the impact of the Israeli occupation on the psyche of Palestinian children and the culture of deprivation, fear, despair and violence that it produces — as if Arabs do not have the same needs as Israelis or Westerners.

When Israel shelled the United Nations compound in Cana, South Lebanon, in February 1996, there was no comparable coverage — to that of the victims of the suicide bombers — of the pain of the survivors of more than 100 mostly women and children who, again, burned to death in the attack. Needless to say, there were hardly any editorials in the mainstream press that criticised the Israeli action, let alone condemn it. While results of separate investigations by the United Nations and Amnesty International showed there was evidence that the shelling may have been deliberate, the mainstream press ignored or buried the reports.

"...it is the overriding context, tone and selectivity that often implies a wholesale judgement of Islam and Muslims."

A recent long feature in The Boston Globe magazine by a writer who cannot be described as biased against the Arabs, dismissed the United Nations report off hand. The writer asserted in a matter-of-fact manner that the bombing was an error, without producing evidence to counter the United Nations report.

Such assertions that are consistent with American policies go unchallenged in the American press. The State Department line is rarely questioned in the American press, especially when it comes to the Arabs and Middle East in general.

There are ample examples of how the mainstream media do not challenge the State Department line; the Gulf is one example.

In most cases, the American government position is taken as the term of reference that

defines reporting and analysis. Thus, even if the reporting is thorough, the context is more often than not an examination of whether the subject of the story, be it a country or a leader, conforms with the American policy or way of thinking.

During the Gulf war and the period that followed, countries that did not join the U.S.-led coalition got the most unflattering coverage. At best, leaders who did not conform were judged as lacking wisdom. Very few articles tried to examine the surge of anti-Western policies and place it in historical context. There were even fewer attempts in the American media to question the objectives and the history of American policies in the region.

Any analysis that aimed at conveying the Arab people's voice was dismissed as biased rambling that supported Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

In the post-war period, the American press carried many articles showing how Jordan, for example, was not observing the sanctions imposed against Iraq. These articles usually followed Pentagon declarations that Jordan was not abiding by the sanctions. There were very few reports about the smuggling operations on the Turkish-Iraqi borders and less on how the blockade against Aqaba targeted many Jordanian and not Iraqi-bound goods, causing a lot of damage to the economy.

There was rarely any mention of the fact that the blockade was accompanied by extreme pressure on Jordan to accept a peace treaty with Israel — even before securing its rights — and to support the U.S.-backed anti-Iraq conditions.

The coverage of the peace process is another case in point. Countries and parties were judged in accordance with their acceptance or refusal of the terms set mostly by the American administration. As long as the PLO refused to accept Resolution 242 as the sole basis for talks with Israel, it was not considered a viable partner by the American administration and, consequently, the media excluded the organisation from the moderate camp.

Now that the PLO is constantly arguing that 242 should be implemented in the final status negotiations, there have not been any reports examining how Israel is openly moving the process away from the United Nations resolutions.

Islam and human rights issues are another example of how the media largely take cue from the American government.

The demonisation of Islam has in fact become one of the major features of the American media coverage of the Arabs and the Arab World.

That is not to say that American reports should be held responsible for covering extremist acts and, in the case of Algeria, atrocities committed in the name of Islam. But again, it is the overriding context, tone and selectivity that often implies a wholesale judgement of Islam and Muslims.

It is rare to find an analysis that exposes extremist Muslim groups and, at the same time, does not demonise Islam or ignores the underlying social and political issues that are pushing the region into despair. An example of this approach, that is an aberration rather than the norm, is a series of analysis by Roger Cohen in the New York Times, earlier this year, which provided a fundamentally different analysis of the situation in Algeria by exploring the roots of extremism and equally exposing official repression of the non-violent as well as violent Islamic groups in the country.

What is more important is what lies behind this demonisation which is not usually mentioned outright in the coverage but can be traced to a predominant school of thought that sees Islam as alien to the so-called Judeo-Christian ethic. Since the Judeo-Christian ethic is seen to form the spiritual intellectual basis of the Western civilisation, Islam falls outside that realm and different standards are applied to it. This argument ignores the similarities between the three univer-

sal, monotheistic religions and highlights the differences. Thus, while anyone could make an argument against any aspect of the three religions' beliefs and practices, Islam and Muslims are often demonised as a whole.

As a result, the coverage of Muslim societies is much different from that of Christian or Jewish societies.

For example, while any act by Muslim groups is followed by extensive articles about Islamic terrorism, the same is not applied after Jewish extremists or rightwing extremists commit a similar act.

When the TWA was blown up over New Jersey last year, newspapers carried several reports solely exploring Middle Eastern or Islamic terrorism — even before any evidence was produced or accusations were made by the government itself.

The fact that the biggest terrorist attack in the history of the U.S. was carried out by American extremists on the Oklahoma federal building and the fact that it was close to the Christian right did not trigger many articles looking into possible connections. This is partly an indication of an American reluctance to accept the idea of "home grown terrorism" but also a sign of a more subjective approach that is largely lacking when dealing with violence involving Arab or Muslim groups.

It has to be noted that the Arab media are not to be exonerated for their own prejudice; many Arab publications readily demonise Judaism and Jews in reaction to the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian by the state of Israel.

This American media position vis-a-vis Islam has affected and sometimes even distorted its coverage of Arab Christians. There have not been many articles which emphasise the role of Arab Christians in the Arab national movements, or the PLO, which are usually presented — in the PLO case until recently — as movements belonging to alien cultures and religions. What is even more significant is the fact that towns and cities, such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth, are either presented as indigenous Israeli towns (as in the case of Nazareth) or with a Christian minority oppressed by Arab

Muslims. The fact that Christians in these towns are subjected to the same repression their Muslim Palestinian compatriots are rarely mentioned. It gets even worse when publications carry articles and reports detailing what they describe as Christian fear of Muslim domination and present Israel as the "protector" of Muslims.

The most salient example, perhaps, is a cover story published by the New York Times magazine on the eve of the Israeli troops redeployment from Bethlehem, that coincided with the Christmas of 1995.

The lengthy report, with the provocative and misleading headline "Allah in Bethlehem", is perhaps the worst example of how a publication which considers itself the world's best gives prominence to a horrendous distortion of facts and blatant prejudice. To begin with, the title and the article implied that Allah is an alien concept, totally ignoring that it is, simply, the Arab word for God who is worshipped by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike.

The article, which includes many derogatory references to the residents of Bethlehem, essentially argued that the redeployment of Israeli troops and the subsequent turn over of the town to Palestinian administration ends the era of safety and security provided by Israel to the town's Christians.

The assertions in the article go beyond the bias reflected in American foreign policy in favour of Israel, to sheer bigotry. But it is consistent with the underlying assumption, embodied in the official American culture, that the U.S. is effectively the guardian of the Judeo-Christian tradition, which implies that Islam is an alien faith and culture.

In addition to its disrespect for Islam and disregard to the Palestinians, the article shows that the coverage of the region, with the exception of the coverage of the PLO itself, now portrayed as "a repentant terrorist" that has to be tested, has not fundamentally changed since the launching of the peace process in 1991. Sure, Jordan has been getting more favourable press after the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, but that does not change the underlying assumption that Israel remains the representative of the Western, and consequently more

humane, culture in the region. Arab leaders are still largely and mainly judged by their compliance with U.S. and Israeli understanding of a peaceful settlement — primarily normalisation with Israel — and, to an extent, by their readiness to accept the terms of the economic globalisation, as presented by the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund.

Thus, even when editorials and reports run critical assessments of the current Israeli Likud government, Israel's interests, mainly its security, are the terms of reference for judging Israeli as well as Arab performance. This line is consistent with the repeated official American assertions that Israeli security tops its goals in the Middle East; what is more alarming, however, is the fact that the press hardly challenges the definition of Israeli security and how it is used as a justification for arbitrary violations of Palestinian rights and Israeli territorial expansion.

There are seldom editorials by American, including Jewish, critics of Israel that are run by the American media. In the aftermath of the Hebron Protocol, scores of opinions were run in the New York Times by Israelis, ranging from Labour to Likud — that seems to be the newspaper's definition of diversity when it comes to Middle East — while there were none by Palestinians, Arabs or even Jews who could be critical of Israel.

There is no indication that the situation is changing although Israel gets more critical press due to the extreme policies pursued by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The press has indicated repeatedly that it is willing to encourage any glimmer of "moderation" displayed by Netanyahu, even if it only means backtracking a little from more extremist positions.

In the final analysis, the real problem is not the American media but the lack of sufficient freedom in the Arab World. After all, the real question is who will end up writing and defining the region's history. The American media, as fair and professional as some journalists could be, are defined by their own view of the world and without a countering view in a free and credible Arab press, the problem will continue.

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Ministry to build \$400m electric power station

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will receive by the end of this month offers from 80 international companies to carry out a \$400 million electricity generation project, either in the central parts of Jordan or in Aqaba, according to Ministry Secretary General Bashir Amio.

In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Rai, Mr. Bashir said the new electricity station is expected to meet the increasing demand for electricity in the period 2001-2004.

Under the terms of the contract, the company selected to carry out the project will establish a private-sector public share holding company to establish and run the station, which will sell its production to the National Electricity Company.

The offers will be evaluated by specialised committees, who will be responsible for preparing a short-listing of the highly qualified companies.

The new electricity generation plant, which is expected to be operational by the year 2001 will produce 450 mega-watts per annum.

Mr. Bashir expected tough competition by private sector companies, which have recently been allowed to invest in the electricity sector, in accordance with a government decision.

He said the new plant will ease the financial burden shouldered by the government, which is currently paying \$100 million a year to support the production of electricity.

The National Electricity Company is currently implementing three electricity projects in Aqaba, aimed at meeting the increasing demand for electricity during the period 1998-2000.

Privatisation battle lies ahead in Kuwaiti parliament

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Plans to privatise public utilities in Kuwait are expected to turn parliament into a battleground as MPs demand guarantees about cheap services and jobs for Kuwaitis, experts said.

A parliamentary panel is in the final stages of reviewing a long-awaited draft privatisation law that is due to be presented to MPs in the new session of the National Assembly, which begins in late October.

"Hopefully we can give priority for this law at the beginning of the next session," said MP Abdul Wahab Al Haroun of the draft that lays down a framework to sell key state assets, such as electricity, water and telecommunications.

The government has also signalled its intentions to press ahead with privatisation and announced plans on September 7 to set up an office, subject to a study, that will oversee the sale of public utilities.

But despite signs of movement, supporters of privatisation, like Haroun, who is rapporteur of parliament's economic committee, say there is still a battle to be won in the National Assembly.

Haroun expects stiff opposition to the privatisation law unless it is accompanied by a raft of legislation reassuring MPs that

generous subsidies of services will stay in place and Kuwaiti employees will be protected.

Kuwait has moved further down the privatisation road than most other Gulf Arab states, a region which is only slowly opening up to the concept of private ownership of traditional state monopolies.

The government has already raised more than 830 million dinars (\$2.7 billion) through a quasi-privatisation process that began in earnest in mid-1994 and involved the sale of stakes in some 23 companies.

But economists point out that rather than real privatisation, the process returned to private ownership firms that mostly fell into state hands when the government stepped in to shore up the economy after a share market crash in 1982.

More tricky, say economists, will be privatising utilities. Although, they add, no one is talking about opening up the state-run oil sector, the mainstay of the economy.

Economists said maintaining subsidised services, if desirable, is likely to prove fairly straightforward because the government can pay a private power generator, for example, to ensure charges to customers are below market price.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Prices as at 12/09/97 17:40									
US Dollar	1.7750	0.6234	1.4715	120.58	1.3810	1741.00	2.0090	5.5951	
GB Sterling	1.8040	2.8545	2.3610	104.15	2.2328	2790.45	3.2175	8.8089	
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4887	0.5142	1.2149	1.1489	14.35	185.43	4.9398	
CHF Franc	0.2704	1.3067	0.4588	1.0709	1.2724	14.35	185.43	4.9398	
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0235	0.3584	0.8647	1.0807	11.53	3.4421		
FR Franc	0.0008	1.0235	0.3584	0.8647	1.0807	11.53	3.4421		
DM Mark	0.0008	1.0235	0.3584	0.8647	1.0807	11.53	3.4421		
ES Ptas	0.0008	1.0235	0.3584	0.8647	1.0807	11.53	3.4421		
GR Drac	0.0008	1.0235	0.3584	0.8647	1.0807	11.53	3.4421		

Middle Eastern Currencies									
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7502	0.3770	3.8400	0.3025	3.6727	1529.50	3.3935	
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.1891	0.1005	0.0807	0.58	407.84	0.9049		
Qatar Dinar	2.25	1.8807	0.8486	0.86	0.8024	3.74	4067.24	0.9018	
UAE Dirham	0.2747	0.1846	0.1033	0.0831	1.01	420.19	0.9323		
Yemeni Rial	2.3008	2.3438	12.8974	1.2408	12.34	5058.20	0.9323		
Emirati Dirham	0.2723	0.1830	0.1021	0.0811	0.8624	418.45	0.9240		
Libyan Dinar	0.935	9.4688	2.4919	2.5749	0.1978	2.4972	2.2187		
Egyptian Pound	0.2947	0.2089	1.1051	0.1111	1.0725	0.8891	1.0823	450.71	

Energy									
Brent	18.41	18.49							
WTI	18.40	18.48							
Bonny	18.41	18.49							
UK Gas	208.00	208.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4746	0.1062	0.3025	3.2508				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1830	0.1021	0.0811	0.8624				
KW Dinar	3.3038	5.8838	2.081	4.8885	400.48				
QY Dinar	0.2747	0.1846	0.1033	0.0831	1.01				
CY Pound	1.8929	3.3754	1.1821	2.7928	229.58				

Metal Prices									
Gold (oz)	324.1	324.6							
Silver (oz)	4.78	4.78							
Platinum (oz)	426	426							
CU (3 Months)	2102	2107							
Zinc (3 Months)	1400	1402							
Lead (3 Months)	843	845							
Ni (3 Months)	8534	8535							

Main Equity Indices									
New York	DOW JONES	7890.58	-5.98	-0.13	7712.3	7851	7851		
London	FT-SE 100	4857.4	2.6	0.05	4878	4833.9	4854.8		
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	17885.3	-316.43	-1.75	18216	17800	18052		
Paris	CAC 40	2861.58	17.98	0.63	2817.3	2890.4	2843.6		
Frankfurt	DAX	2852.61	-117.78	-4.13	2933.5	2854.9	2872.8		

Energy									
Coffee (c/b)	157	Spot							
Sugar (c/b)	321.5	Spot							
Wheat (c/b)	342	Spot							
Soybean (c/b)	32.55	Spot							
Barley (c/b)	0	Spot							
Flour (c/b)	430	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.804	1.806							
DE Mark	0.3025	0.3028							
CHF Franc	0.4746	0.4748							
FR Franc	0.1175	0.1181							
JP Yen	1.4887	1.4895							
NL Guilder	0.3985	0.3988							
IT Lira	0.4092	0.4092							

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS	1 Rid oneself of	5 Former U.S. vice president	10 Idiot	14 Troglodyte's home	15 Distinguishing character	16 Arabian ruler	17 Author Waugh	18 Shining	20 Towel feature	22 Eccentric	23 Feels remorse	24 Flutter about	26 Gasoline factor	29 In a very happy way	33 Role	34 Consecrate	35 Charlotte of "Facts of Life"	36 Famous canal	37 Confused struggle	38 Soft drink	39 Deer	40 Packaging machine	41 In any way	42 City legislator	44 Foliage	46 Landing place	47 Moved smoothly	48 Center of activity	51 Not frothy	55 Sooners	58 Pressing item	59 "I smell"	60 French novelist	61 Alliance acronym	62 Metallic cloth	63 Abrasive	64 Radiate	DOWN	1 Fraudulent act	2 Nimbus	3 Parallel	4 Embellish	5 B.S. or M.A.	6 Map collection	7 Caprice	8 Goddess of dawn	9 Fast plane	10 Signify directly	11 Leave out	12 Force	13 Dionysian event	19 Blue-pencils	21 Weapon	24 Laugh in contempt	25 Emit coherent radiation	26 Word with glasses or house	27 Burnett or Channing	28 Attempted	29 Comic	30 Used the car	31 Burdened	32 Long time	34 Make fast, nautically	37 Family member	38 Young plant	40 Hostile encounter	43 Tread as similar	44 Lifeless	45 Edge	47 Detection device	48 Stable baby	49 Pods for gumbo	50 Chowder item	51 Great renown	52 Of an age	53 "And — bed" (Peeps)	54 Winter white	56 "— to Billy Joel"	57 Silent
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WATER	MATA	STAR	EVITA	ALOP	TOGO	ROMAN	RUTH	ARES	EWEL	CRIMSON	TIDE	SHEA	RUE	AGREED	SWINDLED	BRIAR	UTES	ORR	YELLOW	SUBMARINE	SAL	REBS	PARIS	STERDIDS	SPREES	EAT	NILE	UPPER	SCOPE	BEG	PAUL	NARY	PEARL	OGLE	GLEE	IONIA	NEED	SEWS	ENDED
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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Choose an activity you can do as a team. Clean up the neighborhood. Don't sit around drinking beer all day — anything would be better than that! You don't want to get weighed down with one of those spare tires around your middle. That's be awful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can put up with just about anything for a week-end. You may have to go along with an older person's whim, but you'll get a lot of what you want, too. It's an every trade-off. Besides, you and your sweetheart are so interested in each other, you'll barely notice.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are too many things to be done. You might wish you could clone yourself. The next best thing is to get a friend to help out. Or you could actually hire somebody. Or maybe you could trade. There's always a way around a problem, if you use your imagination.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think of a way to access more money, possibly by using skills you've recently acquired. This might involve marketing another of your talents with a partner. Don't bother trying to get an increase in pay from the boss. Instead, generate more income somewhere else.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Tennis, anyone? How about a rousing game of bridge? Whatever you do will be more pleasant if you do it with a partner. Travel plans go well, too. Make contact with a friend who lives far away. Don't worry about the money — just go as far as you can with what you've got.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Are you trying to fix something? You'll find technical material less confusing than it has been. You may even enjoy reading the manual. You'll certainly like it when all this information starts falling into place. It is not cheating to ask a friend to help.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) You may notice a great sense of relief passing through your body. The worst is over. You and your sweetheart can spend more time together. If you have kids, play games with them. If you don't have kids, go to an amusement park anyway. Pretend you're seven years old.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Stay home this weekend. It's about time you fixed everything that's broken. Some of these tasks are easy, but others definitely aren't. You're very good at getting other folks involved in projects. Besides, lots of people owe you favours. This could be fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You're having a lot more fun, although to the innocent passer-by it appears your situation hasn't changed much. How can this possibly be? Well, perhaps you've experienced an attitude adjustment. You're not the same person you used to be. You're stronger and wiser.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You're still lucky, but you have financial concerns. You want to travel, but you don't want to dig into your reserves. Your favourite way to deal with this sort of situation is to make more money. What can you sell today, so you can get out of town this weekend? Be creative.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're feeling much better about yourself. That's because you've just gone through a really tough phase, and you made it! That's always invigorating. You also made money. Use it to pay off a bill. Who needs money anyway? You're surrounded by friends who love you!

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your partner can give you some helpful hints today. This is good. There's something you've been worrying about far too long. It's a private matter. You may not have completed this task because you didn't know how. Stop fussing about it and get assistance.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Lead Head Who's Who Of Professionals

N. Carolina US — In Sept. 1997, Nabil Hijazi, director of Hijazi Laboratories for Medical Analysis was selected as one of the world's leading successful professionals for his impressive professional background and his keen management and personal supervision of every aspect of Hijazi Laboratories for Medical Analysis which was the first to introduce to Jordan fully automated laboratory testing, generating very fast and accurate results. The laboratories were also the first to introduce to the Middle East sophisticated laboratory computer systems with large storage capacity, the use of magnetised LD cards for each customer, networking and forwarding customer results via Internet. Recently Hijazi Labs introduced H. Pylori Urea Breath Test for the first time in the Middle East. The inclusion of members in the International Who's Who of Professionals is a highly selective process performed by specialised research staff following an in-depth interview and biographical review.

SUPER DELUXE FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

Located in Swefiyeh, Abbas Al Sayeh sub-street, branching off the U.S. embassy street, behind the Chinese Restaurant, House No#9. Consisting of three bedrooms, 3 salons, 3 bathrooms, 3 verandas - new Karara Italian marble floors for salons and corridors - water reservoir, games hall, maid and storage room, central heating, two garages, spacious garden with trees and satellite. Offer for diplomatic missions, directors of foreign companies, regional offices and international organisations.

Please call owner directly at 810980 during the day and Tel. 861025 at night.

Small Apartment For Rent

Deluxe furnished small apartment. Consists of two small bedrooms with veranda, salon with kitchenette, one bathroom, central heating, telephone, TV & video. Location: 5th Circle - Jabal Amman - opposite Arab Medical Centre. No water problem. Call 632755 or 079/27485 from 9 to 9 daily.

REQUIRED OFFICE SPACE ON RENTAL BASIS

A LARGE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY IS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR AN OFFICE SPACE OF APPROXIMATELY 500 SQ METERS LOCATED IN WESTERN AMMAN ON ANNUAL RENTAL BASES. THE PREMISES SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE PARKING SPACE FACILITIES, CENTRALIZED AIR CONDITIONING AND INDEPENDENT WATER, ELECTRICITY & CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEMS. ONLY PROPERTY OWNERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR OFFERS ON OR BEFORE 30.9.1997 TO:

MANAGER (ADMIN & PERSONNEL)

P.O. BOX 926787, AMMAN 11110

*OFFERS FROM AGENTS/BROKERS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

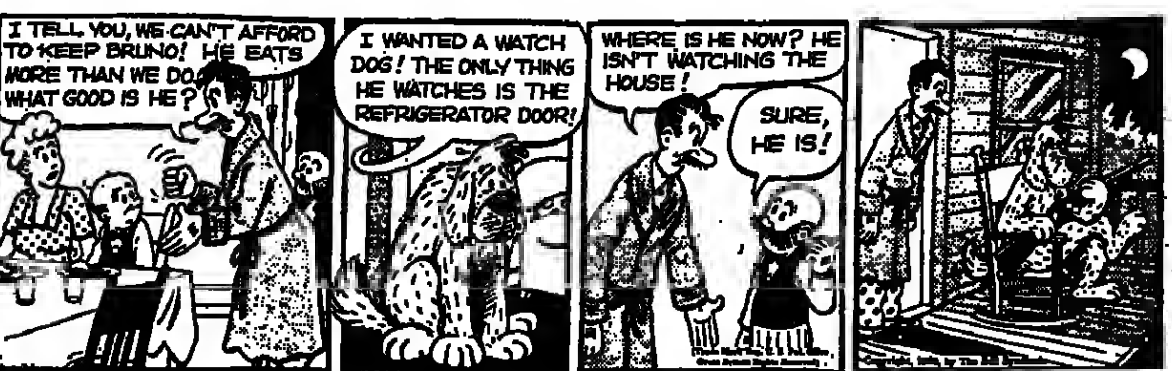
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Madadha: There a to privatise all fre

EXCELLENCE HAIR-CO

REAL NOW IN THE M

THE BETTER HALF.

"I had a nice conversati
my mother today—and
realized it was my refle

JUMBLE

CETTO
LAWRC
ZELPUZ
HYNDIG

Print answer here

Daily Beat

Madadha: There are plans to privatise all free zones

AMMAN (AP) — There ARE official plans to privatise the free zones throughout the country, in line with the government policies that aim at giving the private sector the freedom to take its effective role, Free Zones Corporation Director General Ali Madadha has said. "Once the privatisation process gets started the corporation's role will be that of organising and overseeing the investments in the free zones," he pointed out, emphasising that the corporation will not have any role in the investments.

Mr. Madadha stressed that the corporation will prepare and provide the location at the free zones for the private sector instead of making use of it directly by the public sector. "The corporation will provide all the needed facilities to manage the various sites and hand them over to the private sector to administer them by itself," he explained, adding that the relationship between the private sector and the corporation will only be within the framework of supervision.

The director general said there are assured intentions to re-examine the law of the Free Zone Corporation (FZC) to make it more practical and to make it meet the increasing and new requirements of this sector. He added that there is an urgent need to amend the law especially that there are many private free zones that were established based on regulations and not on a law. Mentioning some fertiliser companies and cattle yards as examples of private free zones, Mr. Madadha indicated there is no clear and specific articles in the law to establish such free zones.

Mr. Madadha said that amending the law is also required to provide instructions to register the companies at the free zones as such instructions would help in executing many demands at the free zones. He also pointed to a gap in the law with regard to transferring the earnings to the treasury. "There is no clear and specific article that permits such a transfer which must be mentioned in the amendment," he said. The FZC chief saw a need to have a new organisational chart for the corporation in addition to having a financial system based on commercial basis to enable FZC to operate at the best manner. Mr. Madadha revealed that the corporation was about to relocate the customs units at the free zones so as to have them at the edges of the zones instead of being inside the area. "As such, there would be better control over the entry and exit of goods than at present," he said.

Mr. Madadha emphasised the need to separate the overlapping authorities between the customs departments and the free zones noting that the customs should operate under the umbrella of the FZC. He also demanded that the certificate of origin be subjected to an analytical processes in the areas of finance and economics whereby specialists would carry out these special tasks.

Jordan's exports increase

AMMAN (AP) — Jordanian exports in the first half of 1997 increased by 9.5 per cent and imports decreased by 2.9 per cent compared to the same period last year, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said Thursday.

A ministry report said exports totalled 507.5 million dinars (\$714.8 million) and imports 1.4 billion dinars (\$1.97 billion) between January and June.

The increased exports, the report said, signalled a "growing international confidence in Jordanian output."

It said \$2.4 per cent of this year's exports targeted Arab countries, such as Iraq, Syria, Egypt and the Gulf Arab states, as well as the Palestinian self-rule area.

Saudi Arabia was the largest importer of Jordanian commodities, fruits and vegetables worth 72.5 million dinars (\$102.1 million), it said. Jordan exports mainly fruits and vegetables, cooking oil, garments, textiles, carpets, furniture, cement, phosphate and detergents. Its imports include electrical appliances, wood, fuel and crude oil, cars, garments, medicines and construction materials.

Share prices at AFM rise


AMMAN (AP) — Share prices rose slightly on the stock exchange for the second consecutive week mainly because of active trading on shares of commercial banks that posted short-term profits.

A stock market report, reflecting activity for six business days ending Thursday, said the share price index nudged up 1.78 per cent to 175.67 points. The index is based on 60 major companies.

The report said shares of commercial banks commanded 62.5 per cent of total trading, recording a 2.6 per cent increase over last week.

It said shares of service companies also increased by 1.3 per cent and the industrial sector by 0.6 per cent, while shares of insurance firms decreased by 0.3 per cent. Turnover decreased by 7.5 per cent to 12.4 million dinars (\$17.7 million) this week, the report said.

It said shares of 92 companies were traded during the week.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET																
JORDANIAN MARKET CENTER - AMMAN																
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (06/09/1997 - 10/09/1997)																
WEEKLY REPORT																
DURING THE LAST 5 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
HIGH	LOW															
234.000	266.000	ARAB BANK	15.5	1.20	340	10840	5027410	326.00	346.00	320.00	337.00	+11.00	238.774	1.237	5	
2.040	1.950	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	146	523322	1024364	1.96	1.66	1.62	1.68	+0.02	1.667	1.246	2	
6.230	2.950	BANK OF JORDAN	4.4	0.00	7	1762	5272	3.06	2.09	2.02	2.05	-0.01	2.064	0.917	3	
4.500	4.500	JOR. POSTAL BANK	26.1	0.00	21	5490	8542	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.0	-0.02	3.904	0.955	5	
2.160	2.230	INTERNATIONAL DEV. BK.	8.2	7.02	24	11047	24815	2.28	2.27	2.24	2.25	-0.02	2.246	0.722	4	
4.000	4.740	JOR. SAVING BANK	14.2	4.00	47	17608	887557	4.75	5.00	4.75	4.89	+0.10	4.862	1.064	1	
2.280	6.000	JOR. SAVING BANK	32.3	0.00	33	65056	202427	2.28	6.22	2.35	3.10	+0.10	2.198	0.63	5	
4.000	7.600	JOR. SAVING BANK	4.4	6.06	26	146314	112761	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	+0.01	7.771	1.732	3	
2.600	2.400	ARAB JOR. DEV. BK.	17.1	0.00	7	34499	123030	3.60	2.60	2.55	2.55	-0.02	3.572	0.46	2	
4.000	3.810	JOR. LEASING BANK	15.7	3.13	47	13760	85341	2.60	4.00	1.86	2.96	-0.12	2.617	1.26	8	
1.230	1.210	UNION TR. DEV. BANK	168.2	0.00	8	4225	2289	1.22	1.24	1.20	1.20	-0.03	1.233	0.028	3	
2.410	2.200	JOR. DEV. FIN. BANK	21.2	0.00	25	28616	124424	2.41	2.41	2.26	2.60	+0.01	2.260	0.64	1	
1.000	4.700	BATEL-AL-HAL (JORDANIA)	4	16.05	14	4850	4411	4.0	4.7	4.9	4.9	-0.06	4.909	0.242	2	
4.700	4.700	ARAB BANKING CO.	21.5	0.00	2	350	662	4.70	4.46	4.44	4.46	-0.24	2.460	0.602	1	
1.000	920	PRIMEVAL DEV. BK.	-	0.00	22	165253	137084	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	-0.02	2.02	1.453	6	
GRAND TOTAL																
1.200		1.200	AMMANIAN TRAD. INSUR.	0.7	0.00	1	50	60	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	-	1.200	0.02	2
2.650		1.600	JOHNSON TRAD. INSUR.	10.7	5.06	2	350	1206	1.65	2.65	4.50	3.65	-	6.993	0.23	5
1.850		1.640	JOR. FIRE INSUR.	4.6	0.62	13	11900	20070	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	-0.05	1.754	0.243	3
CHANGE +0.252%																
1.710		1.660	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	0.2	2.62	377	222173	579022	1.68	1.76	1.66	1.77	+0.09	1.738	2.231	8
1.640		1.700	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	13.2	5.20	12	2720	5410	1.60	2.31	1.22	2.21	+0.21	2.047	0.91	2
2.810		2.750	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	14.6	5.40	1	50	145	2.86	2.89	2.89	2.89	-	2.808	0.66	1
7.500		6.600	VELOC. CORP. PWD.	7.6	0.82	6	29996	214771	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25	-0.25	7.250	1.999	2
2.850		2.800	SHIPPING LINE	16.3	0.82	16	138850	353320	2.82	2.80	2.75	2.80	-0.02	2.800	1.615	2
1.500		1.340	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	82	58740	85022	1.46	1.48	1.40	1.46	-0.02	1.467	1.175	8
6.000		6.000	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	12.8	6.52	1	200	106	6.02	6.02	6.02	6.02	-	6.002	0.04	1
8.700		6.700	ALMA-1	12.8	7.14	4	16650	116500	6.70	7.00	6.70	7.00	+0.30	6.882	0.848	1
1.300		1.240	KID. EAST HOTELS	39.2	0.00	6	2350	2951	1.28	1.26	1.25	1.26	-0.02	1.254	0.06	3
2.580		6.000	ARAB TRAD. DEV. INSUR.	6.0	0.00	56	100515	214627	2.66	2.43	2.28	2.42	+0.07	2.207	0.892	6
1.050		1.050	JORDAN TRAD. DEV. INV.	-	0.00	1	2100	2100	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	-0.05	1.000	0.02	1
1.050		6.500	ARAB EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	20	21326	22102	1.02	1.07	1.02	1.02	-0.02	1.066	0.66	6
1.700		1.700	UNION TR. DEV. INV.	8.2	6.62	22	13850	23062	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.74	+0.01	1.720	0.77	6
4.700		6.500	UNION TR. DEV. INV.	-	0.00	22	12075	8081	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.4	-0.01	7.35	0.242	4
CHANGE +0.27%																
1.710		1.660	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	0.2	2.62	377	222173	579022	1.68	1.76	1.66	1.77	+0.09	1.738	2.231	8
1.640		1.700	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	13.2	5.20	12	2720	5410	1.60	2.31	1.22	2.21	+0.21	2.047	0.91	2
2.810		2.750	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	14.6	5.40	1	50	145	2.86	2.89	2.89	2.89	-	2.808	0.66	1
7.500		6.600	VELOC. CORP. PWD.	7.6	0.82	6	29996	214771	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25	-0.25	7.250	1.999	2
2.850		2.800	SHIPPING LINE	16.3	0.82	16	138850	353320	2.82	2.80	2.75	2.80	-0.02	2.800	1.615	2
1.500		1.340	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	82	58740	85022	1.46	1.48	1.40	1.46	-0.02	1.467	1.175	8
6.000		6.000	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	12.8	6.52	1	200	106	6.02	6.02	6.02	6.02	-	6.002	0.04	1
8.700		6.700	ALMA-1	12.8	7.14	4	16650	116500	6.70	7.00	6.70	7.00	+0.30	6.882	0.848	1
1.300		1.240	KID. EAST HOTELS	39.2	0.00	6	2350	2951	1.28	1.26	1.25	1.26	-0.02	1.254	0.06	3
2.580		6.000	ARAB TRAD. DEV. INSUR.	6.0	0.00	56	100515	214627	2.66	2.43	2.28	2.42	+0.07	2.207	0.892	6
1.050		1.050	JORDAN TRAD. DEV. INV.	-	0.00	1	2100	2100	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	-0.05	1.000	0.02	1
1.050		6.500	ARAB EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	20	21326	22102	1.02	1.07	1.02	1.02	-0.02	1.066	0.66	6
1.700		1.700	UNION TR. DEV. INV.	8.2	6.62	22	13850	23062	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.74	+0.01	1.720	0.77	6
4.700		6.500	UNION TR. DEV. INV.	-	0.00	22	12075	8081	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.4	-0.01	7.35	0.242	4
CHANGE +0.24%																
1.710		1.660	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	0.2	2.62	377	222173	579022	1.68	1.76	1.66	1.77	+0.09	1.738	2.231	8
1.640		1.700	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	13.2	5.20	12	2720	5410	1.60	2.31	1.22	2.21	+0.21	2.047	0.91	2
2.810		2.750	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	14.6	5.40	1	50	145	2.86	2.89	2.89	2.89	-	2.808	0.66	1
7.500		6.600	VELOC. CORP. PWD.	7.6	0.82	6	29996	214771	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25	-0.25	7.250	1.999	2
2.850		2.800	SHIPPING LINE	16.3	0.82	16	138850	353320	2.82	2.80	2.75	2.80	-0.02	2.800	1.615	2
1.500		1.340	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	82	58740	85022	1.46	1.48	1.40	1.46	-0.02	1.467	1.175	8
6.000		6.000	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	12.8	6.52	1	200	106	6.02	6.02	6.02	6.02	-	6.002	0.04	1
8.700		6.700	ALMA-1	12.8	7.14	4	16650	116500	6.70	7.00	6.70	7.00	+0.30	6.882	0.848	1
1.300		1.240	KID. EAST HOTELS	39.2	0.00	6	2350	2951	1.28	1.26	1.25	1.26	-0.02	1.254	0.06	3
2.580		6.000	ARAB TRAD. DEV. INSUR.	6.0	0.00	56	100515	214627	2.66	2.43	2.28	2.42	+0.07	2.207	0.892	6
1.050		1.050	JORDAN TRAD. DEV. INV.	-	0.00	1	2100	2100	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	-0.05	1.000	0.02	1
1.050		6.500	ARAB EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	20	21326	22102	1.02	1.07	1.02	1.02	-0.02	1.066	0.66	6
1.700		1.700	UNION TR. DEV. INV.	8.2	6.62	22	13850	23062	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.74	+0.01	1.720	0.77	6
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1.640		1.700	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	13.2	5.20	12	2720	5410	1.60	2.31	1.22	2.21	+0.21	2.047	0.91	2
2.810		2.750	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	14.6	5.40	1	50	145	2.86	2.89	2.89	2.89	-	2.808	0.66	1
7.500		6.600	VELOC. CORP. PWD.	7.6	0.82	6	29996	214771	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25	-0.25	7.250	1.999	2
2.850		2.800	SHIPPING LINE	16.3	0.82	16	138850	353320	2.82	2.80	2.75	2.80	-0.02	2.800	1.615	2
1.500		1.340	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	82	58740	85022	1.46	1.48	1.40	1.46	-0.02	1.467	1.175	8
6.000		6.000	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	12.8	6.52	1	200	106	6.02	6.02	6.02	6.02	-	6.002	0.04	1
8.700		6.700	ALMA-1	12.8	7.14	4	16650	116500	6.70	7.00	6.70	7.00	+0.30	6.882	0.848	1
1.300		1.240	KID. EAST HOTELS	39.2	0.00	6	2350	2951	1.28	1.26	1.25	1.26	-0.02	1.254	0.06	3
2.580		6.000	ARAB TRAD. DEV. INSUR.	6.0	0.00	56	100515	214627	2.66	2.43	2.28	2.42	+0.07	2.207	0.892	6
1.050		1.050	JORDAN TRAD. DEV. INV.	-	0.00	1	2100	2100	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	-0.05	1.000	0.02	1
1.050		6.500	ARAB EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	20	21326	22102	1.02	1.07	1.02	1.02	-0.02	1.066	0.66	6
1.700		1.700	UNION TR. DEV. INV.	8.2	6.62	22	13850	23062	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.74	+0.01	1.720	0.77	6
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2.810		2.750	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	14.6	5.40	1	50	145	2.86	2.89	2.89	2.89	-	2.808	0.66	1
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2.850		2.800	SHIPPING LINE	16.3	0.82	16	138850	353320	2.82	2.80	2.75	2.80	-0.02	2.800	1.615	2
1.500		1.340	RAEL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00											

De La Hoya and Camacho prepare for showdown

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) — Unbeaten champion Oscar de la Hoya wants to do more than beat Hector "Macho" Camacho in their World Boxing Council welterweight title fight here Saturday.

De la Hoya wants to be the first fighter to stop Camacho.

"It's very important. If it goes 12 rounds, people will say, 'He couldn't knock him out,'" De la Hoya said. "I want to be the first guy to knock him out. He has fought some great fighters. That would be something."

De la Hoya is 25-0 with 21 knockouts while Camacho is 64-3 with one drawn and 32 knockouts.

A lackluster showing in his last fight against Pernell Whitaker has haunted De la Hoya, who hopes for another chance against a fighter who took him off his game.

"I'm looking forward to fighting him because I know Camacho is going to come out and fight me," De la Hoya said. "I can't wait to get through this to get Pernell Whitaker. I will deal with him more easily."

Emanuel Stewart has taken over training duties for de la Hoya, whose popularity in the American Hispanic community is rivalled by Camacho, who ended the comeback hopes of Sugar Ray Leonard in his last

matchup.

"I feel great. My soul is at peace. My health is in place," Camacho said. "My preparation has been excellent. I know everything about Oscar. It's my time. It's Macho time."

"I'm for real and I'm going to win this fight."

On the undercard in an International Boxing Federation junior middleweight title fight, with champion Raul Marquez, 27-0 with 20 knockouts, defending against fellow American Keith Mullings, 14-3 with one drawn and nine knockouts.

France '98 World Cup ticket prices set

PARIS (AFP) — Soccer fans will have to pay a minimum 350 Francs (\$58) to watch next year's World Cup final at the 80,000-capacity Stade de France on July 12.

Ticket prices will be in four categories — 350 Francs (\$58), 950 Francs (\$158), 1,750 Francs (\$290), 2,950 Francs (\$490) — the organising committee said on Thursday.

Prices for the semi-finals will range from 300 Francs (\$50) to 1,850 Francs (\$308). Fans will have to pay between 250 Francs (\$40) and 750 Francs (\$125) for quarter-final matches.

Ticket prices for champions Brazil's opening match on June 10 will range from 200 Francs (\$33) to 1,250 Francs (\$208).

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Fakhreddin Fuad takes gold

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's high jump champion Fakhreddin Fuad added another record to his recent impressive achievements when he won the gold medal at the Men's Arab Athletics Championships currently underway in Ta'ef, Saudi Arabia. Fuad cleared the bar at 2.17 metres, just as he did when he took the gold at the Pan-Arab Games in July. Jordan's Tareq Najjar won the bronze in the discus with two best throws at 50.86 metres and 51.53 metres.

Jordan beats Kazakhstan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kingdom's men's basketball team beat Kazakhstan 66-65 Thursday at the 19th Asian Basketball Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Jordan will next play Taipei and Indonesia in Group D first round matches. Only the top two teams in each of the four groups qualify to the second round.

Ripley faces 6-week absence

LONDON (AFP) — Early English Premiership pacesetter Blackburn Rovers look likely to be without star winger Stuart Ripley for six weeks after he limped off during England's 4-0 World Cup win over Moldova on Wednesday. The 29-year-old Ripley, who was making his first England appearance since his debut in a World Cup qualifier against San Marino four years ago, suffered a hamstring injury only minutes after coming on as a second-half substitute. The first prognosis looked as if the former Middlesbrough and Bolton player would be out for just a fortnight but later it was reported that the club feared he could miss six weeks.

Injury hampers Sheringham

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United's England striker Teddy Sheringham faces a race to be fit for the vital World Cup qualifier with Italy on October 11 with a persistent rib injury. The 31-year-old Sheringham, who signed from Tottenham Hotspur in the summer, suffered the injury in the scoreless draw with Leicester a fortnight ago and his manager Alex Ferguson admitted that the striker was due to miss at least the next two matches. Ferguson said that Sheringham, who had said he was fine but was sent home by the England staff when it was discovered he had cracked ribs as opposed to bruised ones, will not be fit for Saturday's Premiership home game with West Ham or the Champions' League clash with Kosice in Slovakia next Wednesday. "We have to take the medical advice on this. It's still, I would imagine, two to three weeks," Ferguson said. "We only sent him for an X-ray, but the scan (ordered by the England camp) showed up two cracked ribs. So you have to be careful with these things, a knock on them could really cause problems," he added.

Maradona cleared to play Sunday

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona can play for his club Boca Juniors on Sunday, the Argentine Football Association's disciplinary committee confirmed Thursday. A judge on Tuesday lifted a ban on Argentina's former World Cup star for failing a drugs test until the result of an ADN test proved conclusively whether or not the urine sample was Maradona's.

Nigerian player dies

LAGOS (AFP) — A former Nigerian junior international, Tunde Charity, has died after being injured during a match for Insurance Benin City, club officials said on Thursday. Charity was involved in an aerial collision in the 78th minute of a Nigerian First Division match against Nigerdock Lagos in Benin City on Tuesday. Charity finished the match but later began vomiting blood and was rushed to the central city hospital. Doctors operated on the player but he died soon afterwards. Charity, who was due to begin playing in the Russian League in December, was a member of the Nigerian Flying Eagles team that finished third at the junior World Cup in Saudi Arabia in 1989.

Tomba caught up in tax probe

ROME (AFP) — Italian tax investigators are set to interview Italy's triple Olympic skiing champion Alberto Tomba over possible tax evasion, it emerged here on Thursday. Tomba, a 30-year-old former police officer who is set to compete in his fourth Olympics at Nagano next year, is believed by the Bologna justice department to have not paid any tax on 15 billion lira (\$8.8 million) earned between 1989-95 from advertising contracts. A dozen people have been implicated in the affair including Tomba's father, Franco, his former manager Paolo Cornellini and an unnamed tax officer. Enrico Cieri, the prosecutor in charge of the investigation, will interview Tomba at the end of the month.

World Cup qualifiers

Bulgaria, Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay reach finals

PARIS (AFP) — Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay and Bulgaria all reached next summer's World Cup finals, while England and Germany took decisive steps towards France '98 with important victories on a busy night of qualifying.

Bulgaria, semi-finalists in the United States in 1994, beat Russia 1-0 in Sofia thanks to a second-half Trifon Ivanov goal and cannot be overhauled at the top of Group Five. Russia's hopes now depend on the play-offs.

Meanwhile in the Latin American zone, Argentina saw off Chile 2-1 in Santiago. Valencia star Claudio Lopez netted the winner.

Colombia swiftly followed suit, although they turned in a nervous performance to see off hapless group tailenders Venezuela 1-0 at Barranquilla with a second-half goal from full-back Wilmer Cabrera.

Paraguay ended Bolivia's lingering hopes of a ticket to France with a 2-1 win in Asuncion which cements their third place.

The qualifiers join hosts France, holders Brazil, Romania, Norway and African quintet Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa and Cameroon as qualifiers for next year's finals.

England are in pole position in European Group Two thanks to a 4-0 home win over Moldova after previous group favourites Italy could only draw 0-0 in Georgia.

England's comprehensive victory at Wembley against minnows Moldova later on Wednesday gives them 18 points to Italy's 17, meaning the Italians would have to beat Glenn Hoddle's men in Rome on October 11 to qualify automatically.

The Wembley match in front of 75,000 fans was preceded by an emotional tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, with a rendition of Elton John's "Candle in the Wind" followed by a minute's silence.

Goalkeeper Nikoloz Togonidze was Georgia's hero against Italy, making three crucial second-half saves.

The Italians suffered

another blow as Chelsea midfielder Roberto Di Matteo received his second yellow card of the competition, ruling him out of the England match.

In Group Nine, Sampdoria star Juergen Klinsmann marked his 100th cap with two goals in Germany's 4-0 thrashing of Armenia in Dortmund to end a nine-match goal drought for his country.

The German captain ended stout Armenian resistance with Germany's opening goal after 70 minutes. It was his first international strike in 854 minutes.

Germany now lead the group on 19 points and look certain to stay there with only a straightforward-looking home match against Albania to come. Ukraine, who visit Armenia in their final match, are second on 17 points.

Austria boosted their chances of finishing top of Group Four with a 1-0 victory against Belarus in Minsk.

Austria have 22 points with Scotland on 20. Both sides have one match left.



Christian Woerns of Germany fouls Eric Assadourian of Armenia (No. 10) during the first minutes of their World Cup soccer qualifying match in Dortmund. In rear is Dariusz Woz of Germany. The World Cup will be held in France in 1998 (Reuters photo)

Sweden could still pip the Scots to second place after an 88th-minute goal by Mattias Jonsson gave them an unimpressive 1-0 victory over Latvia in Stockholm.

The Swedes, semi-finalists in the 1994 World Cup, now have 18 points with a home game against Estonia to come.

Denmark will top Group One if they avoid defeat in their final game in Greece after beating Croatia 3-1 in

Copenhagen on Wednesday. Romania made it nine wins out of nine in Group Eight with a 4-0 demolition of Iceland in Bucharest. Gheorghe Hagi scored twice.

The Republic of Ireland all but clinched second place in the group with a battling 2-1 win in Lithuania.

Like Romania, Norway celebrated their qualification in style, crushing

Switzerland 5-0 in Oslo, with all the goals coming in the second half. Mini Jakobsen, Egil Olsenstad and Tore Andre Flore were among the scorers.

There was humiliation for Northern Ireland in Albania. A 69th-minute strike by Alvin Haxhi condemned them to an embarrassing 1-0 defeat in a Group Nine clash played in Zurich, Switzerland, because of political unrest in Albania.

'China on course for World Cup finals'

DALIAN, China (AFP) — China start the last stage of the World Cup qualifying campaign with a tough match against Asian favourites Iran here Saturday but their English guide Ted Buxton is increasingly confident China will be at France '98.

Buxton, who was England coach when his mentor Terry Venables was manager, said on the eve of the Asian Group A match that "a dramatic change has come over China in the nine months I have been with them."

"They have improved in nearly area on the field. It has been beyond my expectations. You can see it in China's world ranking which has shot up thirty places."

Buxton was brought in as a consultant with former England goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer last year for the World Cup qualifying battle.

"Nine months ago I thought it would be a miracle for them to get through. Now I think they have a very good chance of winning one of Asia's automatic qualifying places."

The winners from the two Asian groups will go automatically through to

the finals and the two second placed teams will play off for a third spot. The loser of the play-offs will play Australia, where Venables is now in charge, for a fourth spot.

"I speak to Terry nearly every day and I think he is a bit worried now. He keeps asking me about the Chinese players and I say 'you tell me about the Australians.'"

He said Venables had special reports on China's recent tour of England for matches against Premiership sides which Buxton described as "hugely beneficial."

"Our defence has improved a lot and now I think there are four or five players that could make the grade in the Premiership."

China will be without leading scorer Hao Haidong for the Group A match against an Iranian side that will include their trio of stars now playing in the German First Division: Asian player of the year Khodadad Azizi, and fellow Bundesliga stars Ali Daei and Karim Bagheri.

All three, who have played a key role in Iran's return to the top of Asian soccer,

are confirmed starters for the Dalian match and Buxton admitted that Hao's absence through suspension was "a tremendous blow."

Hao joined Dalian from the army side, August 1st, for a Chinese record fee of \$275,000 this summer having been the national side's leading scorer in the earlier World Cup group.

"But don't expect a lot of goals. I think it is going to be a very defensive match, even for the Iranians. If they play the way they do at home then I think we could get behind them. We would have a good chance."

China are in the toughest of the two groups, having also to take on 1994 qualifiers Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

The other Asian World Cup match this weekend will see Japan play Uzbekistan in Tokyo. Japan beat Kazakhstan 6-3 in their first Group B match last week. South Korea and United Arab Emirates are also in the group.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

makes the subsequent bidding far easier.

West led the ace of diamonds and East signalled as well as possible by following with the five. The diamond continuation was taken by East with the queen and back came a low club. Should declarer insert the jack or the king, or is it a pure guess?

Consider the situation. Declarer has already lost two diamond tricks and must lose at least one club trick, which will complete the defensive book. Therefore, declarer cannot afford to lose a trump trick into the bargain. Ergo, the king of spades must be with East if South is to have any reasonable chance of landing the game.

East has already shown up with the king and queen of diamonds, and must have the king of spades. Give East the ace of clubs as well, and East would almost certainly have opened the bidding in second seat. That means the ace of clubs must be with West and, for the contract to succeed, East has to have the queen.

Therefore, insert the jack of clubs. When that forces the ace, and East subsequently turns up with the king of spades, as you inferred, the four-spade contract sneaks in under the wire.

North's decision to make an invitational jump raise of partner's spades rather than introduce hearts has our unqualified endorsement. Once on adequate trump fit has been found, confirm the suit. It

The bidding:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
Pass Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 4♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

If you need a particular card to be right to fulfill your contract, place it where it has to be. Once that is done, you might be able to deduce the lie of the cards.

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THE SAINT
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Alyssa Milano & William Petersen...in
FEAR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Nabila Obeid... in
AL MARA' WAL SATOUR
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Sandra Bullock & Samuel L. Jackson...in
A TIME TO KILL
(12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
ACE VENTURA 1
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Jordan's Tareq Najjar won the bronze in the discus with two best throws at 50.86 metres and 51.53 metres.

Peintre Celebre

Peintre Celebre... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to be a continuation of the sports news or a separate article.)

pain smashes

pain smashes... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to be a continuation of the sports news or a separate article.)

فندق

فندق... (Arabic text, likely an advertisement for a hotel or restaurant.)



Montreal Expos runner Joe Orsulak scores past New York Mets catcher Todd Pratt (R) on Orlando Cabrera's double in the eighth inning at New York's Shea Stadium. The Mets won 9-5 (Reuters photo)

Vereva, Peintre Celebre to star in Arc trials

PARIS (AFP) — Vereva and Peintre Celebre take part in the traditional Arc trials at Longchamp this weekend and both are expected to lay down strong challenges to current favourite Helissio, who will attempt to win a second successive Arc on October 5.

Vereva, owned by the Aga Khan and trained by Alain de Royer Dupre, won the French Oaks in good style in June a week after Peintre Celebre, owned by art dealer Daniel Wildenstein, had taken the French Derby.

Vereva has since gone down to her sole defeat at the hands of Dust Dancer in the Prix Nonette but is reported to be in fine fettle for the Group One Prix Vermeille while Peintre Celebre, who like all Wildenstein's horses is named after artistic terms, remains unbeaten having won the Grand Prix de Paris.

Peintre Celebre is hiding to become the first horse to win the treble of the Derby, Grand Prix de Paris and the Arc in the same season. Reliance was the last horse to win the first two but was thwarted by the greatest horse this century, Seabird, in the 1965 Arc.

Both horses carry two of the most famous silks in French racing and Peintre Celebre has the added advantage of being ridden by Olivier Peslier, who rode Helissio to Arc glory last year but is retained by Wildenstein, in the seven

runner Prix Niel. Should Peintre Celebre, who has been sold to stand as a stallion in the famous Coolmore Stud in Ireland, win as expected it will damage Helissio's bid to become the first horse to win two successive Arcs since Alleged won in 1977 and 1978.

Dominique Boeuf, who was jockeyed off after an abysmal ride in the French Derby last year, has regained the mount after showing this season he has recovered from his prison sentence for being involved in the notorious Chantilly drugs ring.

The main opposition for Peintre Celebre will come from the Group Two winner Rajoute, trained by debonair Francois Doumen who knows the family well having trained his sire and dam.

Vereva, who worked well in a gallop under jockey Gerald Mosse during the week, is opposed by a maximum of 12 opponents including Dust Dancer, a rare English entrant for these Arc trials, but her main problems should come from French colts.

Mousse Glace, trained by Jean Lesbordes who won the Arc with Urban Sea, was second to Vereva in the French Oaks but Lesbordes believes she is as good as his previous Arc winner and is set to give him a second success in October.

Should Mousse Glace prevail either on Sunday or in the Arc itself she would be a very popular winner as Lesbordes lost his only son in a car accident earlier in the year.

Two other fillies stand out: Pascal Bary's Brilliance, who is highly regarded but was only third in the French Oaks, and Gazelle Dancer, trained by Chantilly-based Englishman John Hammond, second in the English Oaks.

The other Arc trial the Prix Foy, a Group Three race for older horses, is a disappointing affair with Pilsudski, second in the Arc last year and winner of the Breeders Cup Turf, the clear favourite.

The main runners of interest are the Japanese runner Sakura Laurel, who though stable in Chantilly is still under the charge of his trainer Fukuo Kojima, and the Australian star Nothing Leica Dame who is being trained by Hammond in place of Australian handler Gai Waterhouse.

However, based on Nothing Leica Dame's performances outside of Australia there is nothing to suggest that he will be a threat either on Sunday or in the Arc de Triomphe.

The stage is set for the final psychological blows to be struck ahead of the October 5 showpiece with Peintre Celebre, Vereva and Mousse Glace expected to be the stars that lay their claims on Sunday to Helissio's crown.

Malaysian police cripple Internet soccer betting ring

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysian police have smashed an international soccer gambling syndicate which used the Internet to accept bets, reports said Friday.

The syndicate was believed to be linked to an illegal betting house in England and had accepted more than \$2.5 million in bets since January, said Penang police criminal chief senior assistant commissioner Amiruddin Embi.

Malaysia has achieved a notoriety since a wave of match fixing rocked the country's football championship. The betting ring was based in the northern state of Penang.

Police arrested two men, aged 36 and 27, when they raided the house and seized a computer, printer, facsimile machine, two handphones, betting slips and a list of international soccer schedules.

"They were collecting bets for the match between Norway and Switzerland in the World Cup preliminary rounds when we raided the place," Amiruddin was reported as saying by The Star daily.

Initial investigations showed the syndicate was raking in up to 200,000 ringgit (\$66,667) per match in the World Cup qualifying rounds, the English Premier League, FA Cup and the recent Copa America tournament.

Payment for bets was believed to have been made through banks and mutual understanding among syndicate "clients," he said. "We are investigating the extent of the syndicate network and its customer base," he added.

Blackburn hoping for more of the same; Bayern look for lead

PARIS (AFP) — Blackburn return to English Premiership duty after a two-week break at the weekend looking to continue their remarkable start to the season against big-spending but troubled Leeds.

Blackburn, who faded dramatically after winning the 1995 league title, have kicked off this year's campaign in explosive fashion with four wins and a draw from their first five games. They have scored 15 goals along the way and their stunning displays in a 4-0 win at highly-fancied Aston Villa and a 7-2 rout of Sheffield Wednesday have made their rivals sit up and take notice of 'the team the Premiership forgot'.

Hodgson's buoyant side, who suffered a blow when winger Stuart Ripley was ruled out for at least a fortnight with a hamstring injury he picked up during England's 4-0 World Cup qualifier win over Moldova on Wednesday, face a Leeds team who have got off to a dreadful start to the season despite a major clear-out in the summer and the arrival of several new faces.

Manager George Graham has spent 10 million pounds (about \$16 million) on nine players, but his side have lost three and drawn one of their first five games.

Blackburn will be overtaken at the top of the Premiership — if only for 24 hours — if second-placed Manchester United beat resurgent West Ham, who are currently in third place.

And Chelsea travel to London rivals Crystal Palace whose Italian recruit Antonio Lombardo will be hoping to upstage his three compatriots at Chelsea, Gianfranco Zola, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo.

Urobeat Arsenal hope to welcome back their inspirational captain and central defender Tony Adams after a five-month injury nightmare when they entertain Premiership newcomers Leicester.

Newcastle, who have six points from two games, will bid to preserve the only 100 per cent record in English football with a home victory over Wimbledon, who prop up the table with just two points. Liverpool, who face David Platt's Sheffield Wednesday at Anfield, are likely to be without star striker Robbie Fowler who has a knee injury.

In Italy, two of this season's title favourites face each other when AC Milan take on Lazio.

Fabio Capello thought he had solved AC Milan's problems last month when his men tore champions Juventus apart in the second-half of their Berlusconi Trophy match.

French winger Ibrahim Ba produced a series of devastating runs down the flanks, while striker pairing George Weah and Patrick Kluivert both found their way past the country's best defence.

Since then, however, all three men have fired blanks and Milan managed only a 1-1 league draw at modest Piacenza and a dismal 0-0 draw here against Reggina in the Italian Cup.

New Brazilian midfielder Leonardo is keen to make his debut, but a thigh muscle strain might keep him out. Capello is meanwhile hoping that his internationalists all return uninjured from their midweek matches.

Lazio will welcome back Australian midfielder Paul Okon, who has been out with a knee injury since last April.

Reigning champions Juventus face AS Roma, at the Olympic stadium on Sunday night. The game was a thriller last time, with Juventus leading 1-0 until Marco Delvecchio

against fifth-placed Stuttgart on Sunday. Bayern's visitors Hertha Berlin have yet to win and are glued at the foot of the table with just two points from their five games.

Kaiserslautern, coached by former Bayern boss Otto Rehagel, will be hoping Czech striker Pavel Kuka returns safely from international duty as they bid to maintain their unbeaten start.

Kuka scored for the Czechs in their 2-0 win over the Faroe Islands last weekend and his forceful front play and goals have been instrumental in Kaiserslautern's rush to the top of the table.

In Spain, Barcelona welcome back their foreign contingent when they bid to make it three wins out of three on Saturday.

Deportivo La Coruna are the visitors to the Nou Camp, and they will doubtless be trembling in their boots after Barca's brilliant start to the season.

Louis van Gaal's side have made light of the loss of last season's goal hero Ronaldo, beating Real Sociedad and Valencia 3-0 in their two games to date.

Brazilian replacements Sonny Anderson and Rivaldo both scored at Valencia

from Fluminense to stay in France.

"There was even talk of taking over the national team, but that's ridiculous," he said. "Things are going really well at Paris."

Paris, the best attack in the French league, play second-placed Basia, the meanest defence, in a top-of-the-table clash on Friday night when leaders Metz are at home to second-from-bottom Cannes.

Only two points separate the first three.

Ricardo said he would be prepared to forego success in the European Champions' League — which gets underway next week — to win the French national title.

"We have got to be concentrated on one objective this season," he added.

Paris, who have won all three games at the Parc des Princes this season, averaging three goals a game, are at full-strength with six-goal former AC Milan striker Marco Simone leading the attack.

Basia are without suspended midfielder Cyril Rool.

Metz may be without playmaker Robert Pires, who cracked a brace in a foot in last weekend's 2-2 draw at Rennes which

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equalised in the third minute of injury time.

Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero has recovered from an eye injury suffered last week, when he took a ball in the face while training. However, the 22-year-old may still be rested on Sunday and used instead against Feyenoord in the Champions League on Wednesday night.

Ronaldo will get his second league outing with Inter Milan at Roberto Baggio's Bologna, where he played in a pre-season friendly last month.

Strike partner Maurizio Ganz scored the only goal then, but this time coach Gigi Simoni would like to see the \$30-million Brazilian open his account.

Parma, Italy's other side in the Champions League, are at home to Atalanta, while Fiorentina host Bari. Bayern Munich can go top of the German Bundesliga, if only for 24 hours, by beating Hertha Berlin in the Olympic stadium on Saturday.

The reigning champions go into the match three points adrift of leaders Kaiserslautern, who have a difficult home fixture

last Monday, and Barcelona should also have Portuguese midfielder star Luis Figo, Dutch defender Michael Reiziger and Bulgarian forward Hristo Stoev back from international duty.

The Catalans are the only side with maximum points, while Deportivo have drawn both matches so far.

Champions Real Madrid should have brilliant Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf, Yugoslav Predrag Mijatovic and Italian Christian Panucci back for their home clash with Real Sociedad, also on Saturday.

Real have made a solid start, drawing with city rivals Atletico and easily beating Salamanca 2-0 away last weekend.

Atletico, who also have four points, will be full of confidence for their visit to winless Athletic Bilbao.

The 1996 champions thrashed Valladolid 5-0 in their previous match and have looked a real handful with Brazilian's pint-sized puppeteer Juninho pulling the strings from the midfield.

Paris St Germain's Brazilian coach Ricardo has turned down an offer

ended their 100 per cent run.

Champions Monaco can count on a full-house for once at their Louis II stadium, where they have yet to win this season, when neighbours Olympique Marseille are the visitors.

Fourth-placed Marseille, the first French club to win the European Cup in 1993, finally seem to have recovered from the consequences of the Bernard Tapie era which left them in disgrace, indebted and in the second division.

Coach Roland Courbis has demanded victory after two away draws but Monaco coach Jean Tigana is just as keen for a win to boost morale before next week's Champions League matches.

David Trezeguet, hat-trick hero against Hungary in a European Under 21 Championship match on Tuesday, should replace injured Croatian Robert Spehar.

Fifth-placed Bordeaux, chasing out-of-favour Paris goalkeeper Bernard Lama after last week's 4-1 defeat at Bastia, tackle fourth-from-bottom Le Havre who have won only once in six outings.

Spain smashes record 13 goals in Under-17 World Cup

ISMAILYA (AP) — Turning its pre-quarterfinal match into a shooting practice, Spain hammered a record 13 goals against New Zealand Thursday at the Under 17 soccer World Championship.

In other matches, Mali became the last team to qualify for the quarterfinals with a 3-1 victory over Mexico and Brazil defeated Oman also 3-1 to grab the top spot in the Group C. In the same group, the United States won a consolation 4-0 victory over Austria although both teams were out of the tournament.

Humiliation heaped on New Zealand and its goalkeeper Jamie Cross in their Group B match against Spain, which had already qualified for the quarterfinals and was playing to win. New Zealand was already out of the tournament with two losses.

David Rodriguez led Spain's 13-0 victory with four goals in a row and Ivan Lopez Aguado scored three goals.

"We had no trouble scoring ... We didn't feel that there was anyone playing against us," said Spanish coach Juan Santesteban.

In the previous highest scoring game, Nigeria defeated Canada 8-0 in the 1993 tournament played in Japan.

Brazil 3, Oman 1: In

Alexandria, after a scoreless first half, Brazil rammed in three goals Thursday to grab the top spot in Group C with nine points. Oman placed second, with six points.

Brazil replaced its defensive strategy of the first half with aggression in the second, scoring the first goal in the eighth through Jorge 'Jorginho' Amaral De Castro.

Oman equalised a minute later — in the ninth — with a Hasbim Mohammed header on a corner kick.

Brazil's second goal was scored by Fabio Pinto in the 23rd minute.

The final goal came in the 42nd minute when substitute Geovanni Mauricio took a free kick that curved over the wall and slid into the goal.

United States 4, Austria 0: In Port Said, Taylor Twellman scored twice in 10 minutes to cement a consolation victory for the United States, which along with Austria was already out of the tournament.

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